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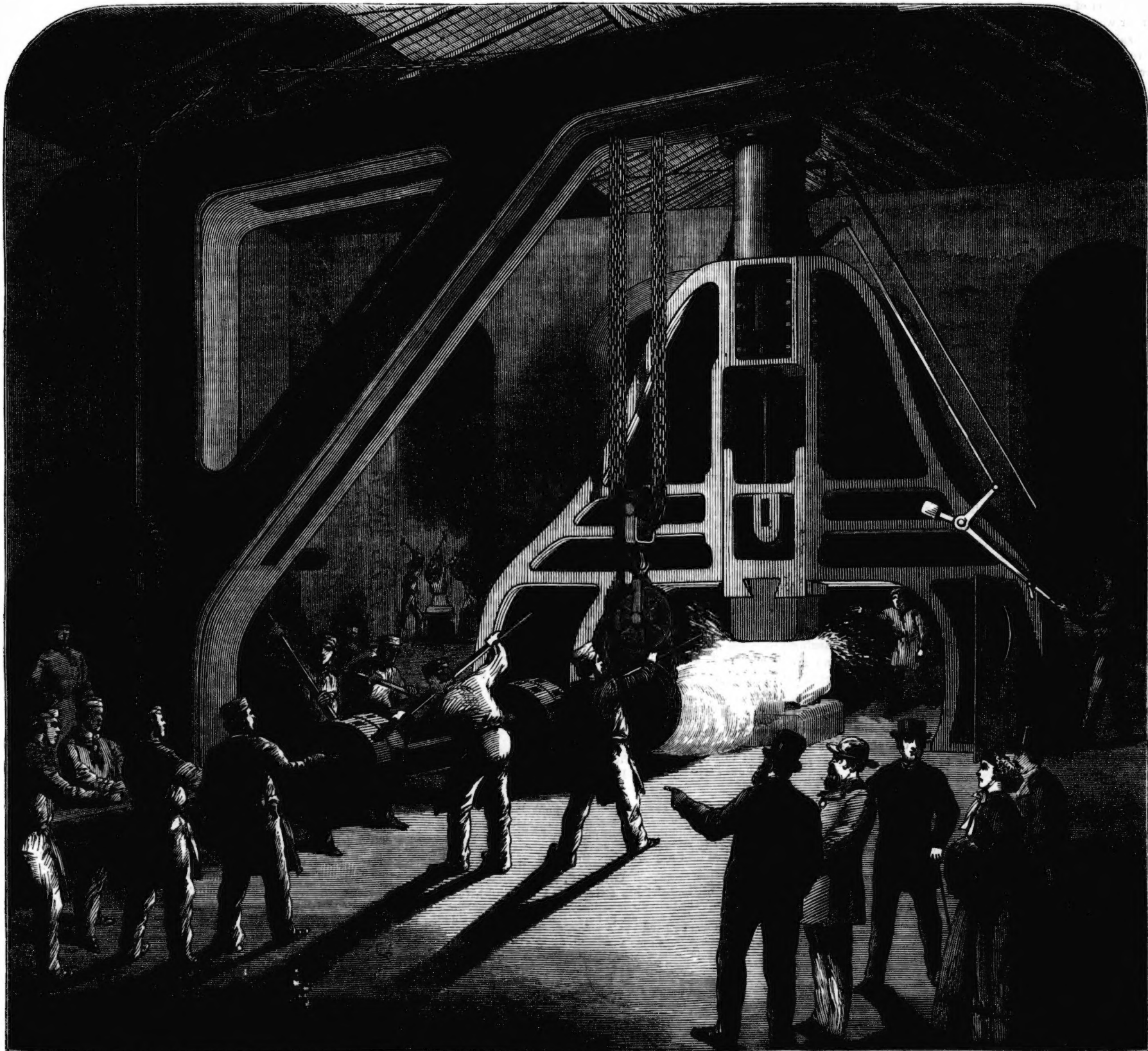
## STATE OF THE NAVY.

THERE is no department of the public service, perhaps, about which the British people are so anxious, so sensitive, or so easily excited, as the Navy. The "State of the Navy" is a subject that never fails to call forth the most intense interest whenever it happens to be the topic of discussion in Parliament or elsewhere. To have what he was wont to call his "wooden walls" in a condition of thorough efficiency, John Bull begrudges no trouble and no expense. Money asked for that purpose is always granted, even though there may be a lurking suspicion—sometimes amounting to almost a positive conviction—that considerably short of full value is obtained for the capital invested. There is, moreover, a well-grounded consciousness in the public mind that the administration of the Navy is not by any means dis-

tinguished by profound wisdom, or even ordinary plain good-sense. The tendency to blunder at the Admiralty is known, and hence the department is distrusted. These are some of the reasons why the Navy is always a favourite theme with alarmists, and why, perhaps, very discordant statements as to its condition are made by party "ins" and "outs." Political capital is cheap here, you see, Englishmen being so exceedingly touchy in regard to naval matters.

For this sensitiveness of the British public there are ample reasons. To begin with, the renown of the British Navy is dear to us all—is, in fact, one of the most precious and most cherished inheritances of the nation: a thing to be watched over, guarded, preserved—and, if possible, added to—with the most jealous care. The roll of our naval heroes, from Drake to Nelson, is indeed an illustrious one; and well, therefore,

may their countrymen be anxious that their fame shall remain untarnished. Then, there is a sense of utility, as well as of sentiment, in our feelings in this matter. Our insular position, our extensive commerce, our scattered, distant, and valuable colonies and dependencies, render supremacy at sea of vital importance to our national existence. A great military Power we never can be. Our geographical position, our comparatively limited population, and our absorbing industrial activity, preclude that. But a great naval Power we have been, we are, and we must continue, or sink at once out of the roll of nations. Such are the sentiments universally entertained by Englishmen on the subject of the Navy; and hence their anxiety about keeping it in a state of thorough efficiency. We all know that it is, and always must be, our best defence against aggression (we



FORGING THE STERNPOST OF H.M.S. HERCULES BY THE COLOSSAL STEAM-HAMMER IN CHATHAM DOCKYARD.



have long since abandoned all notions of *offensive* warfare, either on land or sea). Invasion we may have little reason to fear; but an efficient Navy will best check such a notion in an enemy, and most effectually repel it should the attempt ever be made. A sturdy defence on land we certainly would make should an enemy of any sort ever "get o'er;" but the work can be done best, and most cheaply, at sea. And hence the determination of the British people to maintain a fleet constructed on the most approved models, of the best materials, with a thoroughly efficient and powerful armament, and manned in the most effective manner—a fleet capable, in fact, of coping on an emergency with those of any two of the strongest naval Powers of the world, or, at least, of Europe. Moreover, Great Britain is to a large extent the workshop of the world for warlike implements and stores, as well as for other articles; and it behoves us to see that, while we furnish ships, and guns, and other munitions to foreign, and it may be rival, nations, we retain such a supply for ourselves as will make sure that we shall not be "hoist with our own petard," defeated by the weapons we have ourselves forged. The anxiety of the public, therefore, with regard to the Navy, and the determination to maintain it in a thoroughly effective condition, are both reasonable and patriotic.

In these circumstances, the statement made to the House of Commons by Lord Henry Lennox, in moving the Navy Estimates, was peculiarly satisfactory. That statement was throughout of a roseate tint; in this respect, to be sure, differing in a marked manner from the lugubrious whine uttered by the late First Lord on acceding to office last year, when he declared everything to be out of gear, defective, and amiss. But then Sir John Pakington has been several months at the Admiralty; and, we are willing to believe, has "changed all that." To whomsoever the credit may be due, we are glad to learn that matters are now in a greatly improved state. We have reserves of ships, and reserves of men, ready for duty whenever or wherever required. The sanitary and moral condition of the Navy is excellent, the men being healthy, contented, and well-behaved. We are training a new generation of seamen to take the places of seniors when worn-out or who quit the service for other reasons. We have given our sailors better pay and more comfort when at sea, and we have provided increased and improved hospital accommodation for them on land when accident or disease shall render it necessary. We have a total effective fleet in commission of 554 vessels, eighteen of which are first-class ironclads; several others are of a like character, but ranked as belonging to second, third, and lower classes; and some more ironclads are in course of construction, among which is a cupola-ship, from designs by Captain Coles, "who had been allowed to choose his own tonnage, his own specifications, and his own builder, in order that his system might be fairly tried; for the Board had, from the first, been most anxious that his plan should meet with a more than impartial consideration." Other new and improved models are being tried; and, on the whole, our position in regard to number of ships, and their character, tonnage, and strength, contrasts favourably with the navies of other Powers. We have, moreover, made certain improvements in the system of management in our dockyards—such as the introduction of piecework in ship-building, and keeping smaller stocks of timber and other perishable materials—which are likely to conduce to both efficiency and economy in those establishments.

On the whole, the statement of the Secretary to the Admiralty may be accepted as satisfactory so far as efficiency is concerned; and we trust that his assurance "that, if the Estimates of the Government were agreed to, and the measures in progress for placing the Navy on an efficient footing were carried into effect, the country might be satisfied to rest on its fleet as the right arm of its strength in any future war," may prove fully reliable, for that is both a comfortable and comforting thing to know. On the subject of cost, matters are not quite so pleasing. Increased efficiency—or what we are promised shall be such—cannot be attained without increased cost. This was to be expected; and we can only hope that, as the Admiralty authorities unquestionably make our naval defences dear, they will also make them good. The vote proposed for the Navy for the ensuing year amounts to the large sum of £10,726,253, being an increase of £490,518 over the ordinary and supplementary estimates of last year. This is a very large sum; but as one important portion of the cash is to go to increase the pay and the comforts of the seamen, and another is for the purchase of materials for iron ships, we may be content to let the vote pass; but with the assurance to the Admiralty that the country will most certainly expect to get what is promised—will look to have a reality, and not a sham.

#### THE CHATHAM STEAM-HAMMER.

STEP by step, the Admiralty are adopting means to render our dockyards as efficient as possible; and in the construction of our ironclads, where masses of iron of immense weight and size are required, it has been found necessary to obtain steam-hammers of the largest size and with all the latest improvements. Messrs. Tannett and Walker, of Leeds, have been successful in producing one with which the smiths of Chatham dockyard forged the sternpost of the *Hercules*. The hammer weighs 5 tons; and so admirable is its arrangement, that it will strike a blow of something like 100 tons weight or crack a nut without bruising the kernel. It can be worked with single or double action—that is, steam can be admitted on the top of the piston, thereby increasing considerably the force and rapidity of the blows; or the steam can be shut off at the top part of the cylinder, and the hammer will then act as a single-acting gravity one.

The valve and valve-motion are of very simple and efficient construction, combining strength and durability; it is supplied with a regulator-valve, by which no steam is wasted and by which the hammer is under the perfect control of the workman. It reflects credit on its designers, whilst it materially adds to the efficiency of the most important of the Royal Navy-yards.

## Foreign Intelligence.

### FRANCE.

A great debate on the foreign policy of the Government has occupied the Corps Législatif for about a week, and has also engrossed public attention. The debate was inaugurated by M. Thiers, who declared that the Government "had left no further blunder to be committed." The principal speakers, besides M. Thiers, were MM. Jules Favre, Garnier Pagès, Emile Ollivier, Rouher, Cassagnac, &c. The debate was brought to a close by an extraordinary scene of excitement and disorder arising out of an allusion by M. Rouher to the coup d'état of Dec. 2. The Government, of course, had a majority; but it is remarked that the minority was much larger than was expected, numbering forty-four members. In the course of the debate M. Rouher informed the Legislative Body that France had informed the Pope that she was ready to open negotiations for the purpose of sharing the amount of the Papal debt among the Catholic Powers.

The new law on the press is strongly denounced by all the independent journals, and the law on public meetings only excites ridicule, as the only meetings to which any interest is attached—viz., political and religious—are practically prohibited.

The first batch of soldiers from Mexico have arrived at St. Nazaire. The Prince Imperial has been ill; but it is stated that he is now decidedly improving, and his condition excites no uneasiness.

On Sunday a serious riot took place at Roubaix among the workmen employed in the cloth-factories. The cause of offence was the introduction of new looms, which enabled the masters to reduce the number of weavers by one half. The men, having assembled in the streets to the number of 25,000, proceeded to the factories and committed great destruction. The military were called out, and it was only when the soldiers were preparing to fire that the rioters dispersed. Thirteen of the latter were afterwards apprehended. The riots broke out again on Monday, and many acts of violence were committed. The military once more interfered, when the rioters fled towards the Belgian frontier. It is said that the workmen have yielded to the rules of the masters; but of this there appears much doubt.

### SWITZERLAND.

The subscription to the Swiss Federal loan of 12 million francs, for the purpose of improving the national armament, was opened on Monday. The Federal Council declared to keep back 6 millions of the amount at par. For the 6 millions left open to the public, 19 millions were subscribed, six of which it was offered to take at par, eleven at 98, and two at a lower figure.

### ITALY.

The elections, so far as they are complete, show an overwhelming majority for the Government. The number of Government deputies is said to be 239, while the Opposition can only muster 135. There are, however, twenty-eight deputies whose political principles are not known, and there are yet seventy elections the results of which are unknown. It may be, therefore, that the Government majority will not, after all, be so powerful.

The Papal Government has, it is said, asked that the Italian troops may co-operate with the Papal troops in the suppression of brigandage on the frontiers, and for that purpose the Italian troops may enter upon Papal territory. Further, his Holiness has consented to remit some duties on goods in transit through the Papal States from one part of Italy to another.

### GERMANY.

The discussion consequent upon the first reading of the draught of the Federal Constitution was closed on the 13th. By this prudent shortening of a debate which had already occupied a week, no less than thirty-two gentlemen who had signified their intention to speak upon the important subject, in addition to the nineteen that had held forth, were debarred from so doing. The Reichstag is bent upon work rather than talk, and the points at issue being of an exciting nature, thought it as well to refer intending speakers to the second reading, when the necessity of introducing distinct amendments will render the debate more practically useful. The Parliament is now engaged in discussing the Constitution in detail. Numerous amendments have been proposed, and more are in prospect.

A plan for the formation of a German fleet will be submitted to the Parliament now sitting. This plan is being prepared by the Prussian Government. A large ironclad is being constructed for the Prussian Government in the United States of America.

The Berlin *Official Gazette* publishes identical offensive and defensive treaties of alliance concluded between Prussia and Bavaria on Aug. 22, 1866; and between Prussia and Baden on the 18th of the same month. By these treaties the contracting Powers reciprocally guarantee the integrity of their respective territories, and bind themselves to place at each other's disposal their whole military power in case of war. In time of war both Bavaria and Baden agree to hand over the supreme command of their troops to the King of Prussia. These treaties were at first to have been kept secret. Ratifications have been exchanged.

### AUSTRIA.

The Austrian Government has summoned the Diets of Bohemia, Moravia, and Carniola to meet on April 6. It is thought that the Reichsrath will assemble on the 28th.

It is stated that the Emperor, previous to his departure for Hungary, sanctioned a bill for the introduction of trial by jury into Austria.

The Emperor is now in Buda-Pesth preparatory to his coronation as King of Hungary. He has been most cordially received.

The Austrian Finance Minister has sent a circular to the subordinate financial officials in Hungary informing them that they will in future be subject to the Hungarian Financial Minister. A sort of convention has been agreed to between the Finance Ministers of Hungary and Austria. In case there should be a surplus in Hungary after all expenditure has been defrayed, the balance will go to the Imperial exchequer. Should there be a deficiency, the Imperial exchequer will lend money.

Affrays have taken place at Knin and Kitanje, in Dalmatia, between the authorities and the people, in which the Prefect and several gendarmes were killed.

A Vienna telegram asserts that France, Russia, and Austria have agreed to recommend the Porte to cede Candia to Greece. What will Fud Pacha say to this proposal?

### TURKEY.

The Government has suspended the press law upon the ground of Administrative considerations. Two Turkish papers have been already stopped and their editors prosecuted.

Some Cretan delegates had arrived at the Dardanelles, on the 14th inst., on their way to Constantinople.

### GREECE.

The son of Garibaldi has arrived in Athens, with twenty-five companions. The Cretan committee have, however, declined their services, stating that they are in hopes that a diplomatic solution of the question will be arrived at.

Interpellations have been addressed to the Greek Government in the Chamber in reference to the despatches received from the Governments of England and France. The Ministry replied that it would observe the treaties, as their predecessors had done, but that it was impossible to stop the commercial and contraband expedition of arms and munitions of war.

### THE UNITED STATES.

We have advices from New York, through the Atlantic telegraph cable, to Thursday.

The Senate had passed a supplement to the Reconstruction Bill, instructing the commanders of the military districts in the South to

take measures for completing the registration of the voters by September next, and then cause an election to be made in each State. The majority of the voters thus registered are to decide whether a convention should be held, in order to form a Constitution to be submitted to the people and to Congress. To this measure the House of Representatives agreed; but there was a general expectation that the President would veto the bill. If so, it is certain that the two thirds vote would be obtained, and the veto nullified. The House of Representatives had passed a resolution instructing the Committee of Foreign Affairs to inquire why the Alabama claims had not been paid, and what ought to be done to secure their payment.

The President had signed the Army Appropriation Bill under protest, declaring that the bill deprives the President of his Constitutional functions as Commander-in-Chief, denying that the States have the Constitutional right to maintain a militia. He added that he was constrained to sign the bill because withholding his signature would defeat the necessary appropriations.

The majority of the Judiciary Committee had reported relative to the impeachment of the President that the testimony taken justifies the continuance of the investigation. The minority report claims that the evidence exonerates the President.

The thirty-ninth Congress closed at noon on the 4th, and the fortieth Congress immediately assembled, and elected Mr. Wade President of the Senate, and Mr. Colfax Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Virginia Senate had offered to co-operate with General Schofield, who commands the Virginia district under the bill for the military government of the South.

The Senate of Louisiana had made an appropriation to test the constitutionality of the military bill.

The Ohio House of Representatives had refused to strike the word "white" from the State Constitution.

The New York Assembly had rejected a bill for allowing negroes to vote for delegates to the Constitutional Convention.

President Johnson had proclaimed the admission of Nebraska as a State into the Union.

Several riots had taken place in New York, and collisions between the Irish and the police. Many persons were injured. Federal troops were moving towards the Canadian frontier to check any possible Fenian raids. The *New York Herald* asserts that Mr. Johnson, in reply to a Fenian delegation who waited upon him to ask for belligerent rights for the Fenians, said he would give the question the most serious consideration, such as was necessary to decide a matter of so great importance.

### MEXICO.

Intelligence from Mexico, via New York, states that Porfirio Diaz with a large force of Republicans, was between Puebla and Mexico, cutting off the communication between the capital and the coast, and that the Imperial forces under Mejia, Miramon, and Mirguez, had been defeated by Escobedo at Guernard on the 16th.

### THE BRAZILS.

Intelligence, derived from Paraguayan sources, asserts that two Brazilian ironclads have been placed hors-de-combat near Curupaity. The insurrection in the provinces of the Argentine Confederation is said to be extending, and General Paunero, who was sent to suppress the revolt, has been compelled to retreat. 2500 Argentines have been taken from the allied army to oppose the insurgents. General alarm, it is alleged, continues to prevail in Buenos Ayres, and many arrests have been made.

PARR AND SALMON.—Mr. John Shaw, of Drumlanrig Park, died last Wednesday. For many generations there had been a controversy as to whether the small fish called a "parr" was the young of the salmon; and a great many hot and positive assertions had been uttered and printed on both sides. Instead of stating opinions or drawing inferences, Mr. Shaw, more than thirty years ago, set himself to ascertain facts. With the permission of the Duke of Buccleuch (on whose Dumfriesshire estates he was head keeper), he erected ponds on the banks of the Nith at Drumlanrig, where he carried out a sort of triple experiment, making assurance trebly sure. He put parrs into the pond, and they became salmon smolts; he took what was understood to be salmon roe from the river, and it became parrs; and he took pairs of salmon from the river, expressed their milt and roe, and the produce was again parrs. All subsequent experiments have confirmed Mr. Shaw's experiments, made so long ago as 1836, and have added little or nothing to them.—*Scotsman*.

THE BRITISH LODGER.—Once more is the Lodger conspicuous for his absence from Parliamentary reform. The procession is long enough, and a good many make at least half a dozen appearances in various fancy dresses; but the Lodger, the man of every class, and the best representative of every interest, is not to be found there, unless he comes in some strange disguise. Indeed, what disguise here would fit the average Lodger? He has not house and land, otherwise he would not be in lodgings. He seldom keeps a horse; his landlady objects to a dog; he has no man servant; he shows no armorial bearings; it is seldom, indeed, that he has £50 in either the funds or a savings bank; he has very rarely either a degree or an educational certificate; only a small proportion of his class are clerical. Yet the Lodger is universal, ubiquitous, and welcome everywhere. He is the coming man of all classes. The cottager with a third room, or the village shopkeeper with a parlour, has a Lodger if he can get one. Ground-floor fronts and backs, first-floor fronts and backs, second-floor fronts and backs, throughout whole streets and quarters of our large cities, are like the tiers of vast pigeon-houses or the cells of a beehive to flocks and swarms of Lodgers. Not that they are so volatile and migratory a race as this would imply, for there are few people more closely tethered than the British Lodger. Mansions are bought and sold, banks start and stop, companies swell and burst, while the Lodger remains. All his days are spent out, and he is glad to get home in the evening, and rest or enjoy himself, without thinking of a change. Yet he is an absolute necessity of British social life. The quiet sort of folks who entertain in a cheap way once or twice a week, or are at home most evenings, think the world is frowning on them if one or two Lodgers don't drop in. The Lodger is the Arab of the social desert. Life is indeed drear where he never shows himself. The truly domestic husband never leaves his fireside, and the sacred fire is apt to smoulder and smoke a little. It is the Lodger that pokes it up and supplies a modicum of intellectual fuel. But there are Lodgers of all grades. There is a hierarchy of Lodgers, seraphim and cherubim, literary and scientific Lodgers, affectionate and witty Lodgers, who go the round of an admiring or loving circle, linking firesides together as comets were once said to do, and bringing into the very corners of society small currents from the mighty tide of human life. What would London be without Lodgers? What would England?—*Times*.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.—At nearly all the Roman Catholic churches and chapels in London, on Sunday, the sermons had special reference to the Fenian outbreak in Ireland. At St. George's Cathedral, Southwark, the discourse in the morning was preached by the Rev. Dr. Todd, of Greenwich. Having alluded to the present disturbed state of Ireland, he said that this lamentable insurrection had its origin in a secret society, and on that account alone it was to be reprobated. The Church had in all ages condemned secret associations, and it had absolved their members from keeping any oath which they might have taken in connection with them. A secret oath did not bind the conscience of those who took it; but, on the contrary, they were under an obligation to break it; and the Church had so far set its face against secret societies as to refuse absolution to those who belonged to them unless they retraced their steps and gave up the society. He urged that there were plenty of legitimate means for getting grievances redressed, and that it was their duty to resort to those means rather than disturb the public tranquillity. The clergy of the Church in Ireland had acted faithfully in denouncing this conspiracy long before it had become formidable, and at a time, too, when they as a body were almost entirely ignored by the Government. Even now, if any little courtesy was shown to one of its members, it was almost necessary that a public apology should be made; and the clergy, while acting with the most perfect good faith, were continually accused of being abettors of the conspiracy. While, however, they denounced in the most unequivocal terms the members of this association, it must not be forgotten that discontent in Ireland was but the fruit of past and present misgovernment, which it was the duty of the clergy and the people to endeavour to remedy. After alluding to the anomaly of the Irish Church Establishment, which, he said, had been successful only in keeping up animosity between class and class, he urged that three things were necessary for the pacification and prosperity of Ireland. Let there be no ascendancy of any religious sect, that there might be as little animosity as possible engendered by this means. Discourage emigration—at least that frightful exodus which had now been going on for years past—by giving the people an interest in the land, not interfering with the rights of the owners of property, but compelling the latter to deal justly with their tenants; and, lastly, educate the people. Trust the Catholic Church, for it was by the power of her influence that the proportions of the present insurrection were so small. By giving her the means of properly educating the people they would place in her hands an engine of defence against discontent, and, combined with just laws, the whole empire would become one, contented, and united.



# MEETING OF THE LIBERAL PARTY.

A MEETING of Liberal members of the House of Commons was held on Thursday afternoon, at the residence of Mr. Gladstone, to decide upon the policy to be pursued by the Opposition on the Government Reform Bill.

The meeting, which was largely attended, was opened at half-past two o'clock.

Mr. Gladstone, addressing the members present, declared the Government Bill, in his opinion, thoroughly objectionable in principle and in method, and that there was no probability of its conversion into a good and acceptable measure. Dealing with it from his point of view, he should be inclined to oppose the bill on its second reading, and he was prepared to recommend that course to the meeting.

Mr. Bright expressed similar views. Several hon. members having dissented from this course, Mr. Gladstone then said he would defer to the different sentiment which prevailed very largely amongst the members of the Liberal party. He did not forget that to preserve the union of the party was a matter of high importance. What he proposed, then, was this:—On the second reading he should question the Government as to certain leading principles or propositions in their measure—those which to him seemed thoroughly objectionable; he should ask whether these propositions were to be regarded as vital parts of the measure; and, if the answers were not satisfactory or were elusive, he should reserve liberty then to oppose the bill before Committee. But in that case he would probably call another meeting to decide upon the course of proceeding.

Mr. Roebuck spoke in favour of going into Committee. Mr. Bright shared Mr. Gladstone's opinion that the Government bill could not be made an acceptable measure. But he was quite ready to accept the course Mr. Gladstone had proposed—to get into Committee, if possible. He intimated a belief that he should have no difficulty in backing the policy of the Liberals as a party.

Mr. Gladstone said that he had heard the Government intended to postpone going into Committee on the bill to a late period, and he intended very strongly to oppose that course.

# THE FORTHCOMING BUDGET.

THE Estimates having now been printed, and containing also those of receipt, including those of the Army and Navy, we are in a position to give a sketch of the absolute requirements of the coming Budget. So far as the three quarters that have been published are concerned, we may expect revenue to prove a little better for the whole year than the Estimate, but the improvement cannot be expected to exceed £200,000. In some respects it will be worse. Mr. Gladstone calculated stamps at £2,450,000. But in four quarters to December last they were only £2,291,000, and this quarter will not be better than the corresponding one of 1866. So, too, income tax on four quarters to December last gave only £5,458,000, although containing some arrears of the old duty. We have, consequently, calculated the estimates of income next year very liberally. For instance, the Army and Navy receipts are allowed for according to Estimates, though for many years they have never come up to Estimates, and this year are notoriously sanguine (Mr. Seely's pigs to wit, and sale of timber in dockyards).

## 1866-7.—INCOME.

Income (including £500,000 New Zealand Bonds) ...	£67,575,000
Less changes proposed by Mr. Gladstone, not including conversion of debt by annuities, which Mr. Disraeli gave up—	
Timber ... ..	£307,000
Wine ... ..	58,000
Pepper ... ..	112,000
Carriages and horses ... ..	85,000
	562,000

## EXPENDITURE.

Army ... ..	£14,095,000
Navy ... ..	10,400,000
Civil ... ..	13,710,000
Debt ... ..	26,140,000
Consolidated Fund charges ... ..	1,880,000
	66,225,000

Supplementary Estimate proposed by new Government last Session ... ..	495,000
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Estimated surplus ... ..	£293,000
Supplementary Estimates this Session ... ..	312,000

Deficiency ... .. £19,000  
But the revenue will probably be £200,000 better than the estimate, and the expenditure £300,000 less, so there may be expected a surplus on 1866-7 of nearly £500,000.

## 1867-8.—EXPENDITURE.

Army Estimates (as printed) ... ..	£15,252,000
Navy Estimates do. ... ..	10,926,000
Civil Estimates do. ... ..	14,055,000

	£40,233,000
Interest, &c., of debt* ... ..	26,100,000
Consolidated Fund charges ... ..	1,900,000

	£68,233,000†
INCOME.	
Customs according to last year's Estimate, after deducting timber, wine, and pepper ... ..	£20,898,000
Add 2 per cent yearly increase ... ..	£418,000
	£21,316,000

## INLAND REVENUE.

Excise on calculation as above ... ..	£20,593,000
Stamps (no increase, less special cause in succession duty) ... ..	9,450,000

	£51,359,000
Taxes—increased as above ... ..	3,468,000
Income tax 1d. to produce £1,400,000, and no arrears of old rate ... ..	5,600,000
Crown Lands ... ..	340,000
Post Office ... ..	4,500,000

## MISCELLANEOUS.

Army and Navy (as in the printed Estimates) ... ..	2,025,000
All other ‡ ... ..	700,000

	£67,992,000
Expenditure ... ..	68,233,000

Deficit ... .. £241,000

Hence we have a result of £2,008,000 Estimates for Army, Naval, and Civil more than Mr. Gladstone sanctioned last year, and thus, in spite of revenues allowed to grow at a rate of 2 per cent per annum, there must occur a deficiency of a quarter of a million.—*Post*.

\* £20,600 less than Mr. Gladstone took last year.

† Just 2,000,000 more than original estimate of late Government.

‡ No China indemnity or New Zealand bonds next year.

A STEAM-ENGINE BOILER exploded on a farm near Watlington railway station on Tuesday, by which event five men were killed on the spot, two so seriously hurt that their lives are despaired of, and seven others more or less injured.

# SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN held a Court, on Tuesday afternoon, at Buckingham Palace, which was numerous attended. Her Majesty afterwards drove to Marlborough House to pay a visit to the Princess of Wales and the Queen of Denmark.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS OF WALES is gradually approaching convalescence.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF DENMARK and suite arrived in London on Monday afternoon, reaching the Charing-cross terminus at a few minutes before six o'clock. The King of Denmark arrived in London on Wednesday.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, through Sir Thomas M. Biddulph, K.C.B., has forwarded her usual annual subscription of £50 to the National Lifeboat Institution.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA presided at a meeting of the Hungarian Cabinet, held at Pesth, on Sunday afternoon. In the evening his Majesty went to the National Theatre, and was most warmly received.

A MARRIAGE between Prince Charles, Hospodar of Roumania, and Princess Margareta of Savoy, is expected.

KING VICTOR EMMANUEL was driving down to his hunting-seat at Madria, near Turin, recently, when his carriage was stopped by brigands, who levied black mail before they would allow him to proceed.

SIR STAFFORD NORTHOTE, who vacated his seat in the recent Ministerial changes by accepting the secretaryship of State for India, was re-elected on Monday for North Devon, without opposition. Mr. Corry, First Lord of the Admiralty, has also been re-elected for the county of Tyrone without opposition.

THE COURT appointed by the Queen to be held on Tuesday, April 2, will, by her Majesty's command, take place on Thursday, the 28th inst.

MR. THOMAS PARRY, of Sleaford, was on Saturday last elected for Boston, in the room of Mr. Staniland, who has retired.

THE DEATH OF THE MIKADO OF JAPAN is announced, via New York.

A MARRIAGE is arranged to take place between the Duke of St. Albans and Miss Sybil Mary Grey, eldest daughter of General the Hon. Charles Grey, C.B. It is said that the wedding will take place in June.

MR. RALPH EARLE, M.P., the secretary to the Poor-Law Board, has tendered his resignation to Lord Derby.

THE CHINESE SUGAR-CANE has been successfully cultivated in Texas, in the United States.

THE EASTERN VOLUNTEER REVIEW, it has now been definitely settled, is to be held this year at Dover.

DR. STRUTHERS, Professor of Anatomy in the University of Aberdeen, late Lecturer on Anatomy, Edinburgh, is a candidate for the Chair of Anatomy in the University of Edinburgh, vacant by the death of Professor Goodair.

THE LEGISLATURE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, on the 18th, voted unanimously to join the Colonial Confederation.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY, on which another Fenian outbreak was feared, has passed off without the least disturbance either in Ireland or in this country.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION is to be opened on April 1, but without any state ceremonial.

THE RAILROADS IN AMERICA employ 200,000 men; and 1,000,000 men, women, and children wholly depend on those railroads for support.

THE TRIAL of John and Mary Watson, at Nottingham, for what is known as "the Carlton murder," has terminated in a verdict of "Not guilty."

JERUSALEM, according to some recent statistics, is still in some respects the city of the Jews. It is found that there are 7000 Jewish inhabitants, 5000 Mohammedans, and 3400 Christians in the place.

THE FENIANS appear to have everywhere dispersed; at all events, the flying columns of troops out in search have been unable to find any body of men in arms. Numerous arrests have been made all over the country, however.

A ROYAL ORDINANCE, published at Berlin on the 14th inst., fixes the allowance to the members of the North German Parliament at 15¢ per day. They are also to be paid the cost of first-class places in the trains to Berlin going and returning.

THE AMERICAN SENATE has amended the Revenue Bill by making the tax on cotton 2¢ per lb. Great destitution exists in Alabama, Georgia, and North and South Carolina.

THE ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE numbers nearly 17,600 able seamen, who are maintained at an annual cost of £143,000. The general opinion is that the system works admirably.

SOME BIRDS OF THE MARTIN SPECIES were observed at Basset, near Southampton, on Sunday, the first of the kind that have been noted in the neighbourhood this year. These birds return to this country later than the swallow, and do not commence nest-building until May.

TWO MEN NAMED CHAPMAN AND BARNES, guests at a wedding-party in Hull, on Sunday afternoon, quarrelled and fought. Chapman received a blow which caused his death a short time after. He has left a young wife and a family. Barnes is in custody.

M. SCHNEIDER, of the works of Creuzet, France, has received orders to build sixty locomotives for England. Time was when England supplied France with most of, if not all, her locomotives; but times have changed.

SIXTEEN ACRES OF FURZE were burnt at Warsash, in Hants, on Sunday night. It is supposed to have been set on fire by some children. A corn-field intercepted the fire, or eight acres more would have been burnt. The fire raged three hours, and was seen at a long distance.

ONE OF THE IRON MORTAR-BOATS now laid up in ordinary is to be prepared as a coastguard vessel for service in the Mersey.

AN ARRANGEMENT has been completed between the Great Eastern and Great Northern Railway Companies for a very close alliance, from which advantageous and important results are expected for both companies, and by which the Great Eastern Railway Company are to have uninterrupted access to Lancashire, Yorkshire, and the north of England.

THE NEWSPAPER PRESS FUND ANNIVERSARY DINNER is fixed for Saturday, June 29; and even thus early there are indications that the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, who has accepted the chairmanship, will be supported by a large number of the members of both Houses of the Legislature, the Bar, and the literary world generally.

M. ALLOU, *docteur* of the order of advocates in Paris, and MM. Berryer, Dufaure, and Marie have given their opinion that it would not be legal to make over to the Queen of England the statues of the Plantagenet Kings who are interred in Frontevault without a vote of the Corps Legislatif.

LORD STRATHNAIRN received the most explicit instructions for his guidance in dealing with the Fenian rising, so that the troops should have no doubt as to the mode in which they were to deal with any men with arms in their hands engaged in rebellion. This was done in consequence of Lord Strathnaairn feeling some doubt, after the course taken against the Jamaica authorities, as to his own position.

LORD RIVERS died on Friday week at Torquay. The youthful Lord, who had been in delicate health for some years past, was born in April, 1849, and succeeded his father, George Pitt Rivers, fourth Baron, in April last. He is succeeded in the title by his uncle, the Hon. Horace Pitt, who was formerly Lieutenant-Colonel of the Royal Horse Guards.

AN IRISHMAN named M'Loughlin and a female confederate were charged before the Liverpool magistrates, the other day, with selling to shopkeepers what appeared to be rolls of Limerick tobacco, but which turned out to be rope soaked in a solution of treacle, lamp black, and snuff. They were remanded, to be dealt with by the Excise authorities.

INFANTRY OFFICERS are in future to have a blue patrol-jacket, in place of the double-breasted frock-coat. Field officers will have their distinctive badges embroidered in gold on the collar. The sword-belt will be worn under the patrol-jacket; the sash will not be worn in undress. Staff and departmental officers wearing the double-breasted frock-coat will adopt the patrol-jacket.

THE ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL of the Benevolent Society of St. Patrick was held, at Willis's Rooms, on Saturday evening last, under auspices which must have been very gratifying to all the friends of the institution, and with a result more than usually beneficial to its funds. In the absence of the Prince of Wales, who was prevented from being present by the death of the Duchess of Gloucester, the Duke of Cambridge presided.

THE BLIND MAN who begs on the Pont des Arts, Paris, was recently observed to have shifted his placard of "Pity the poor blind," &c., from his chest to his back, to have turned himself round, and to be intently gazing into the water. On being addressed, the man turned round, and proved not to be blind at all. He explained the matter by saying that he was the intimate friend of the *pauvre aveugle*, who had gone to the wedding of one of his relations, and begged his friend to do duty for him during his absence.

A FRENCH PHYSICIAN has composed a liquid which he calls "gazeol," and which is said to produce remarkable and certain cures in cases of whooping-cough. A teaspoonful of it is placed in an open phial, which is put into a water-bath always kept at the same temperature. Children suffering from whooping-cough are taken into the room and are cured by inhaling the emanations from the gazeol as it mixes with the air of the room. It evaporates very rapidly. The remedy is said to have been used with complete success in the Orphan Asylum at Paris.

UDMANICS, the most notorious robber in Croatia, was shot the other day, after a desperate fight with five gendarmes who had surrounded and set fire to a house in which he had taken refuge. He leaped from the flames, killed one gendarme, wounded another, had thrown a third to the ground, and stopped for a moment to dispatch him too, when the wounded gendarme shot him dead. Robberies are frequent in Croatia, and are often committed with impunity, the robbers easily escaping over the Turkish frontier. Udmancs had plied his trade several years before he met his fate.

# CAUCASIAN EMIGRANTS.

ONCE more, under the heavy pressure of Russia, the natives of the Caucasus are emigrating from those villages to leave which is almost as great a calamity to these patriotic people as to part with life itself. No wonder that these hardy children of the mountains dread to leave their inheritance, for it has not been poorly provided by nature. Although the mineral wealth of these mountains is comparatively insignificant, vegetation is rich and luxuriant. Magnificent forest trees clothe the higher mountain slopes almost to an incredible height; lower down, all the finer fruit-trees of the climate are found growing in wild profusion; while lower still, where human labour can be made available, almost any degree of culture, however imperfect, is rewarded with an abundant crop. The ordinary cereals grow 7000 ft. above the sea-level; while valuable shrubs, plants, and flowers, in almost endless variety, deck the valleys and lower plains. Animal is not less vigorous than vegetable life, and the forests abound with wolves, boars, jackals, deer, goats, and hares, pheasants and partridges. A large species of wild cattle called *urochs* roams at large, and the hares of the Caucasus have been famed from the remotest antiquity.

Besides the aboriginal Caucasian tribes, many others of foreign origin occupied the valleys of the range; the most numerous being of Turkish race, and especially the Tartars. When the different States, which had been founded by the descendants of Djengis-Khan on the countries north of the Caucasus, were destroyed by the Russians, many of the Turkish tribes abandoned the plain and settled in these valleys. The Circassians or Tcherkesses became of late years by far the most important people of the Caucasus; and it has been a long and difficult task for Russia, even with all her wealth and power, to bring them into subjection. Nay, they still refuse to bow to the yoke; and now that great military roads and constant expeditions have succeeded in pushing them from their mountain fortresses, they will wander from their villages and leave their huts and fields to the invader rather than own the sway of the Muscovite. The Russians divide the Caucasus into three portions: the right flank, comprehending the provinces of Kouban and Circassia; the Daguestan (the ancient Albania); and the centre, with the province of Terek in the midst of which is Tchetchina. This latter country is the Circassian territory, and here the people last resisted the inroads of Russia under their well-known chief Schamyl. This leader, however, did not always find the tribes that adjoined his own so faithful to the national cause; for their ceremonies, and even their traditions, differ considerably from those of their neighbours. They refused to submit, however, to the mandate of Russia, which required them to leave the mountains and settle in the plains in the midst of the Muscovite population, to the north of Tchetchina. This province is peopled with 140,000 inhabitants, and, finding the domination of their conquerors too severe, they have determined to seek an asylum nearer to Mecca, and desire that they may be passed on to Turkey, where they will live under a milder sway and be less harassed by the exigencies of a changing civilisation. The Russian Government, desiring to remove all excuse for revolt and discontent, made overtures for this purpose to the Sublime Porte, and an arrangement was come to by which the first convoy, consisting of 200 families, marched from Vladi Kaokaz last year. Our illustration represents the last convoy of these people in their recent journey across the Deve-Boino, a narrow and savage defile leading from the plain of Hassan Kholi to Erzeroum. Nothing can be sadder, and at the same time more picturesque, spectacle than these caravans of poor, tattered emigrants, with their long line of rumbling carts and waggons, scanty herds and flocks, and half-naked, sunburnt children. The men, however, sit proudly on their sturdy mountain horses, and their arms and accoutrements—the long guns and sabres and heavy pistols—glitter in their sashes, giving, after all, a somewhat noble and striking aspect to the procession.

# THE TREASURE-TROVE AT HARTLEPOOL.

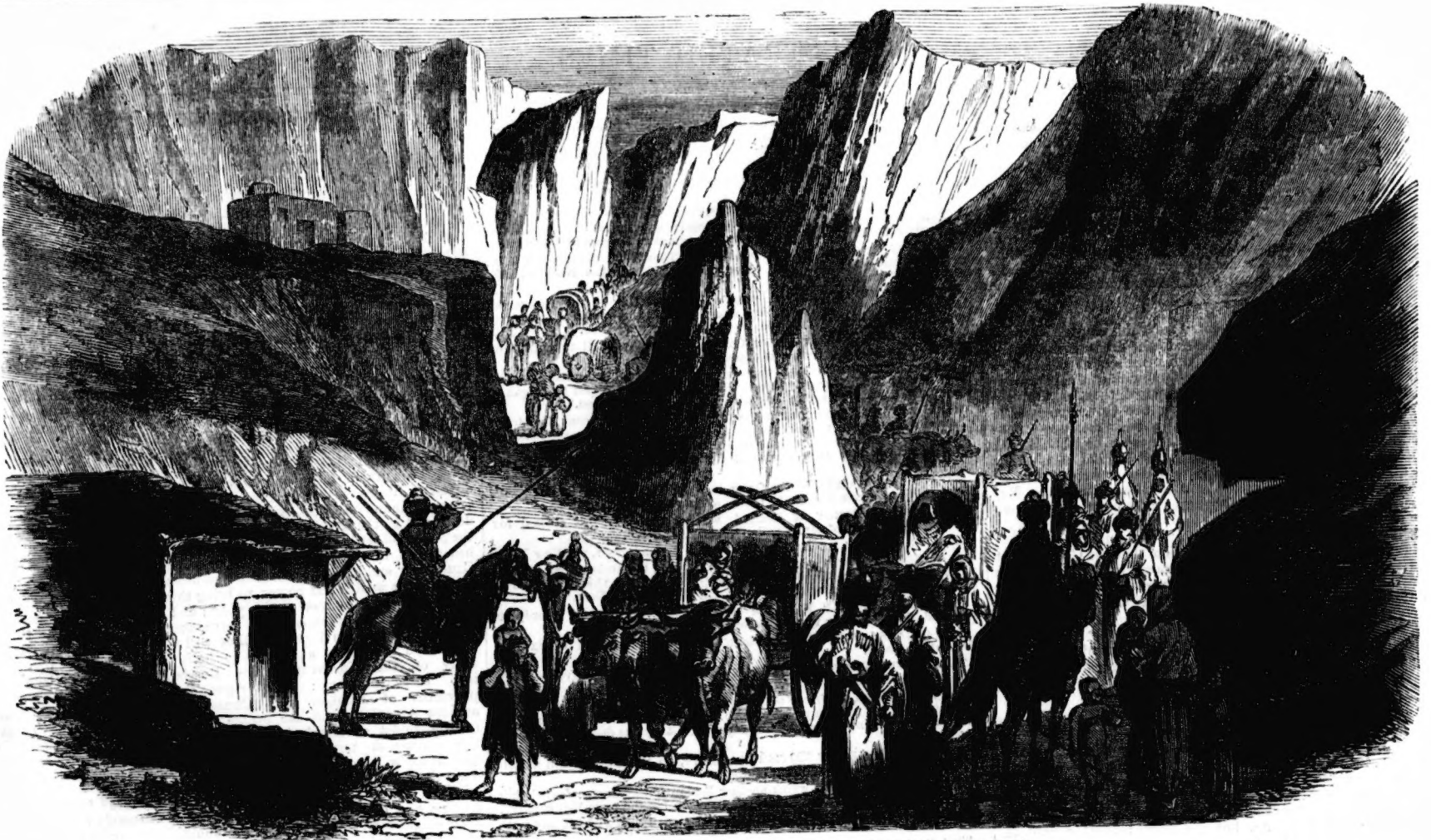
IN our last week's Number we gave an account of the discovery of a quantity of Spanish dollars on the shore at Hartlepool. We now publish an Engraving exhibiting the extraordinary scene presented on the beach while the treasure-seekers were most fully intent upon their researches. The "find" was speedily exhausted, such was the diligence of the impromptu "diggers;" and the town has now settled down to its ordinary pursuits. Not a few households, however, are reported to display tokens of the results of that brief shower of wealth which fell so unexpectedly to the lot of the denizens of the Yorkshire seaport.

"FLINT JACK."—A notorious Yorkshireman—one of the greatest impostors of modern times—was last week sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment for felony at Bedford. The prisoner gave the name of Edward Jackson, but his real name is Edward Simpson, of Sileghs, Whitby, although he is equally well known as John Wilson, of Burlington, and Jerry Taylor, of Billery-dale, Yorkshire Moors. Probably no man is wider known than Simpson is under his aliases in various districts—viz., "Old Antiquarian," "Fossil Willy," "Bones," "Shirtless," "Cockney Bill," and "Flint Jack," the latter name universally. Under one or other of these designations Edward Simpson is known throughout England, Scotland, and Ireland—in fact, wherever geologists or archaeologists resided, or wherever a museum was established, there did Flint Jack assuredly pass off his forged fossils and antiquities. For nearly thirty years this extraordinary man has led a life of imposture. During that period he has "tramped" the kingdom through, repeatedly vending spurious fossils, Roman and British urns, fibule, coins, flint arrow-heads, stone celts, stone hammers, adzes, &c., flint hatchets, seals, rings, leaden antiquities, manuscripts, Roman armour, Roman mile-stones, jet seals and necklaces, and numerous other forged antiquities. His great field was the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire—Whitby, Scarborough, Burlington, Malton, and York being the chief places where he obtained his flint or made his pottery. Thirty years ago he was an occasional servant of the late Dr. Young, the historian, of Whitby, from whom he acquired his knowledge of geology and archaeology, and for some years after the doctor's death he led an honest life as a collector of fossils and a helper in archaeological investigations. He imbibed, however, a liking for drink, and he admits that from that cause his life for twenty years past has been one of great misery. To supply his cravings for liquor he set about the forging of both fossils and antiquities about twenty-three years ago, when he "squatted" in the clay-cliffs of Bridlington Bay, but subsequently removed to the woods of Stainton-dale, where he set up a pottery for the manufacture of British and other urns, and flint and stone implements, with which he gulled the antiquaries of the three kingdoms. In 1859, during one of his trips to London, Flint Jack was charged by Professor Tennant with the forgery of antiquities. He confessed, and was introduced on the platform of various societies, and exhibited the simple mode of his manufacture of spurious flints. From that time his trade became precarious, and Jack sunk deeper and deeper into habits of dissipation, until at length he became a thief, and was last week convicted on two counts and sent to prison for twelve months.

# GARIBALDI AT VENICE.

THE friends of the great Italian Liberator have always reason to be afraid on his behalf when he begins to take part in the ordinary affairs of electioneering, or when he wields the pen instead of the sword to aid the political combinations of his comrades. There is something in the very simplicity and nobility of Garibaldi's character which, while he is in action as the great leader of a volunteer army, charms even his enemies into admiration; but, whenever the chief endeavours to disguise his true nature by imitating the diplomatic language of statecraft, he is sure to make blunders, which are not only painful but dangerous. The recent tour of the heroic recluse of Caprera has done little for the side which he has espoused in the Italian Parliament, although he has been everywhere received with unbounded enthusiasm—a proof that, at all events, Italians can distinguish between the qualities of a great patriot and an able administrator. At Verona and at Padua a grand reception awaited him, and equal welcome greeted his arrival at every other place that lay in his tour; but he has won more cheers than votes, and, if some of the speeches he has made are correctly reported, his friends have reason to regret that he ever entered upon this new kind of warfare under the red flag. In his not unnatural opposition to the influence of the priests in Italy, he has used language the meaning of which goes further than to accuse the priests themselves. At Venice his opposition to the clergy had nearly pro-



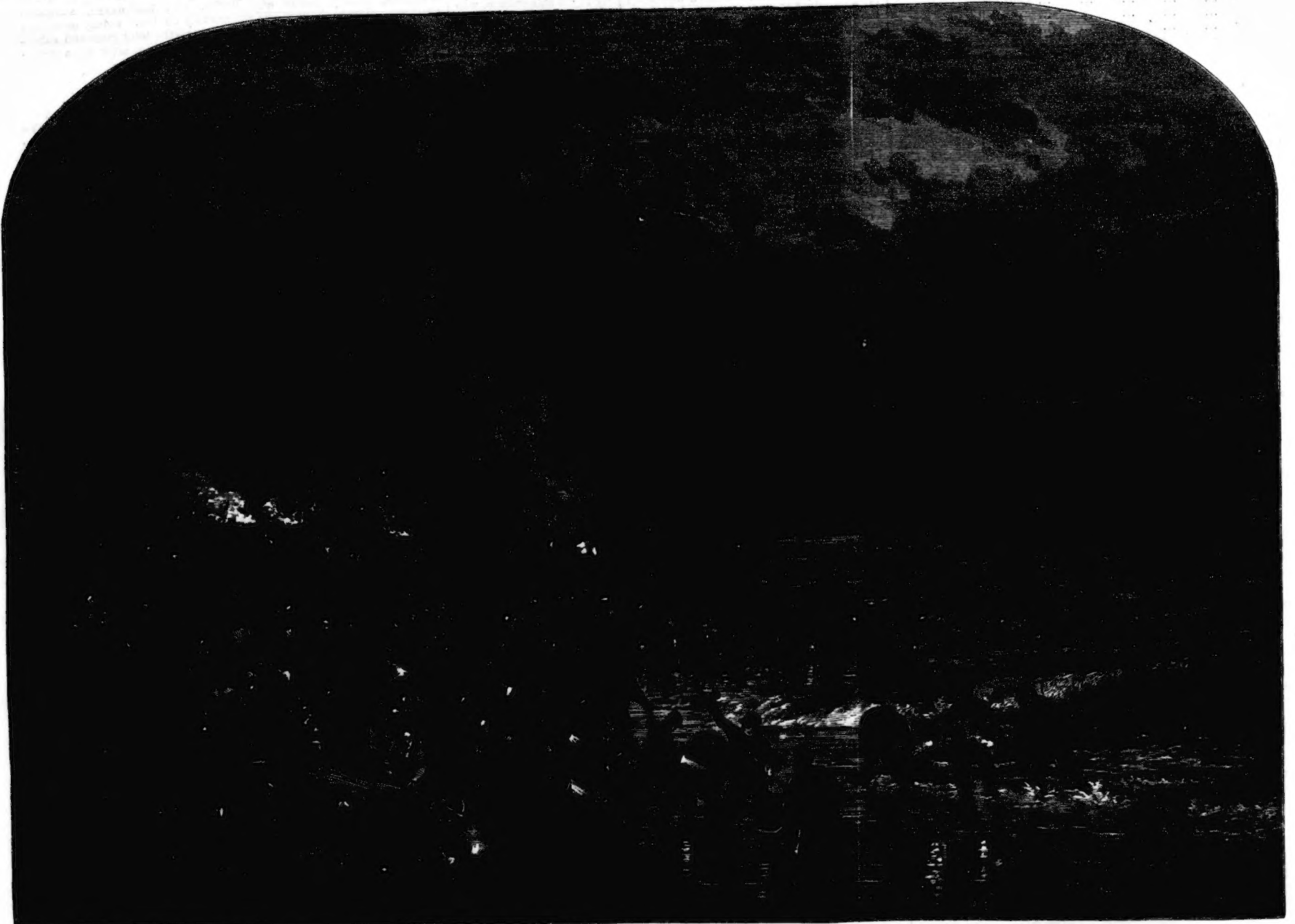


EMIGRANTS FROM THE CAUCASUS IN A MOUNTAIN GORGE NEAR ERZEROUH.

duced serious results. It may be imagined what a reception awaited him at the city so recently liberated, and how the whole population went out upon the great, silent highway of the Grand Canal to greet him. All the city was en fête again, and new decorations were devised for the buildings which had so recently worn their gala-dress for the King. Our illustration is taken from a sketch of the scene as Garibaldi's gondola appeared near the Place of St. Mark, and he was saluted with a true Venetian welcome. He is not slow to respond, but greets the Venetians with impressive warmth as the people upon earth most dear to him, and recalls the days when Venice was the bulwark of civilisation and made head against the "Crescent, the Turks, the Sultans, and the Devil himself!" When the applause that greeted this climax had subsided, he

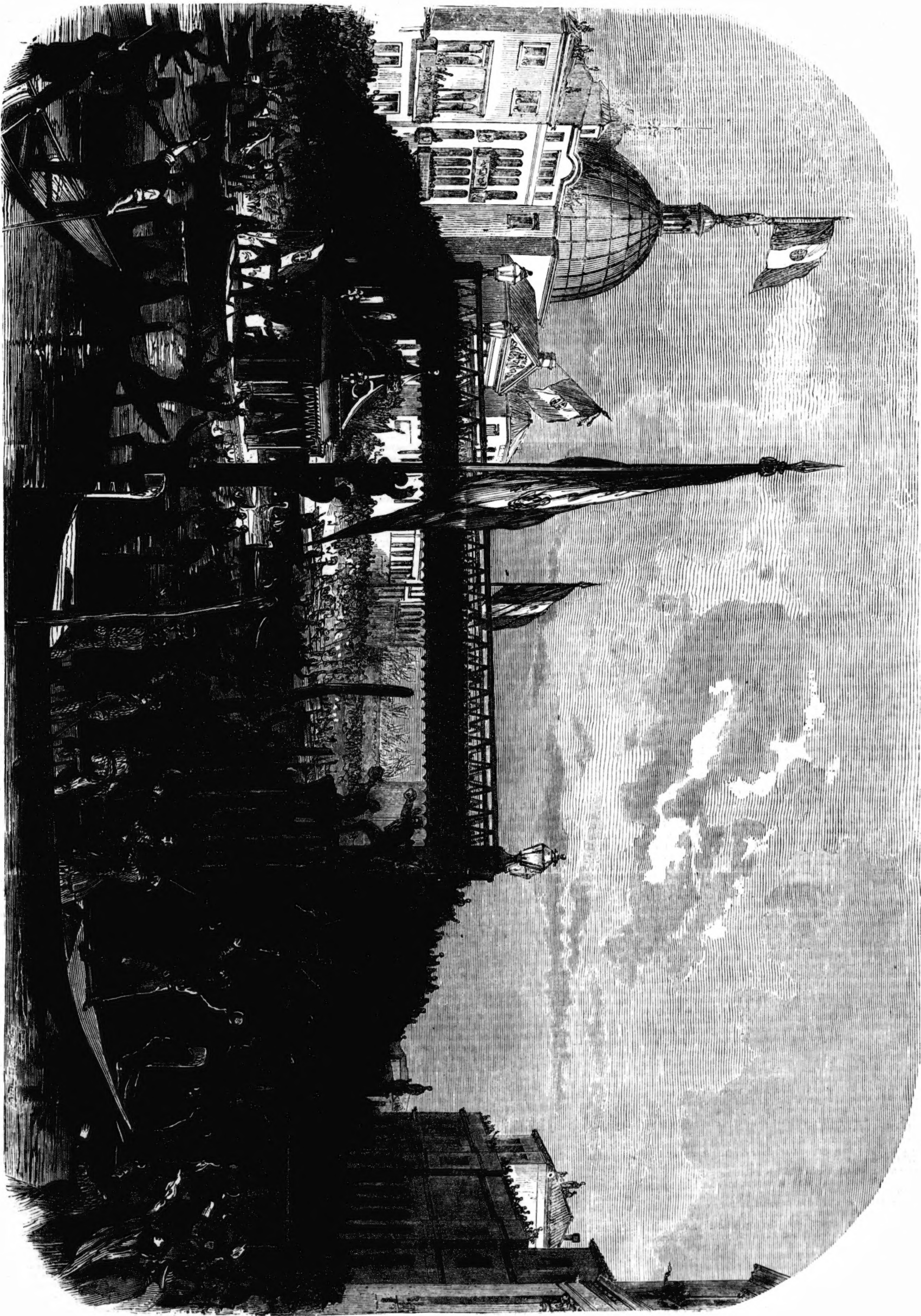
said, "This Venice was afterwards abandoned—sold in the market like a lamb sold by one tyrant to another tyrant. You know who the knaves are of whom I speak." This was all very well, and his audience showed by their applause, and by their remaining in a crowd under his windows for hours after, that they fully appreciated his meaning; so that when in a subsequent speech he spoke of Rome, and denounced the priests and those who covenanted with them, meaning probably the promoters of the Free Church Bill, they were ready to take some sort of action as an illustration of their sympathy. He had not calculated the possible effect of such denunciations on a populace intoxicated by the enthusiasm of the hour and by the enjoyment of unaccustomed liberty. On the following evening people assembled in front of the Palace of the

Patriarch, raised a cry of "Death to the priests!" threw stones at the windows, and compelled the occupants of the houses to hang out flags and display lights. The police were unable to restore order until they were aided by the National Guard; but the affair lasted a very short time: the whole damage done seems to have been limited to a few panes of glass broken, and the compulsory illumination of the place and of the adjacent house of the archpriest was soon put an end to. It appears that damage was also done to a café, and a robbery was committed. The next day Garibaldi, speaking again from his balcony, severely blamed these disorders, and expressed his hope that the report was untrue which attributed them to Garibaldians. The crowd much applauded him, and that portion of it which wore red shirts, of course, protested its entire innocence.



THE TREASURE-HUNTERS OF HARTLEPOOL: SEARCHING FOR THE SPANISH DOLLARS.





RECEPTION OF GARIBALDI IN VENICE.



## INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 296.

## DISPERSED OF A MOB.

SINCE we began to write these articles on the "Inner Life of the House of Commons," more than ten years ago, we have often had to describe the appearance of the lobby on the occurrence of great and important debates in the House; and, as these appearances were always the same, it has often taxed our ingenuity to prevent our descriptions from becoming mere wearisome iterations. This week, happily, we have to exercise no such ingenuity, for there is no danger of wearisome iteration. Heretofore the lobby has always been filled by a mob—a mob of gentlemen, if you please, but still a mob—undisciplined, and at times unmanageable; but on Monday night there was no mob and no pressure. In short, the lobby was, upon the opening of the House and during all the evening, free from the presence of strangers. The fact is, that on the night when the Chancellor of the Exchequer introduced his Resolutions, the mob of gentlemen was specially unruly—taking the lobby by storm, jamming up the entrance to the House of Peers—Bishops, Ambassadors, and members, all blended in one incongruous mass, and so pressing against the door that at one time it seemed as if this barrier must give way; and this long-standing evil having at length become intolerable, the Sergeant-at-Arms had to make some fresh rules to prevent a recurrence of these unseemly and disorderly proceedings. It is the Sergeant-at-Arms' special duty to keep the passages to the House clear of obstructions; and, the evil which we have described having come to a head in the manner noticed, he issued orders that all strangers should be resolutely kept out of the lobby till after prayers, and that even after prayers only those whose names were upon the lists for the Peers' and Speaker's Galleries should be admitted, and they only one at a time. The effect of this rule, sternly carried out by the police, reinforced, was magical. There was no crowding, no struggling for places, and yet, within a quarter of an hour after prayers, every stranger who had his name down upon either of the lists was in his place, whilst princes, peers, and eldest sons of peers, ambassadors, and other privileged persons could walk into the House as quietly and with as much stately dignity as the squire of a country parish walks into church. This is as it should be. It was intolerable that Royal princes should have to thread their way through a crowd, and that peers and bishops should be jammed in a mob. It is good that princes and other highborn or sacred folk should mingle with the people; but this was too much of a good thing; neither was it right. Indeed, it was very wrong, unconstitutional, a breach of privilege, that the members, when they came down, should find the way to the House blocked up by strangers.

## GATHERING OF THE HOSTS.

In the House there was a great gathering of members. We reckoned, on throwing our experienced eye over the mass, that about 500 were present. There was, too, under the gallery, and up stairs in the Ambassadors' Gallery, a great concourse of notables. Indeed, here the pressure was so great—standing room as well as sitting room being all occupied—that the Sergeant-at-Arms had to allow the mass of nobility to overflow into the members' side gallery, within a prescribed limit. Under the gallery his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales sat. He came late, and when he arrived the benches were filled; but the officer of the House who preceded him had only to whisper "the Prince of Wales," and straightway half a dozen peers rose to give him a seat. The Duke of Cambridge and Prince Teck sat in the Ambassadors' Gallery. The Prince of Wales did not stop long. Indeed, he had scarcely been in his seat half an hour when the doorkeeper was seen to approach him and to hand him a letter, and straightway he rose and went away.

## DISRAELI RISES.

Mr. Disraeli rose to perform his arduous task about five o'clock. One of the morning papers tells us that the scene at this moment was "animated;" and this is a true description. Before he rose the House, though not torpid or restless, was anything but attentive to what was going on. Mr. Speaker was every now and then upon his legs, muttering something and handing papers to the clerk; and members were interpellating Ministers, and Ministers were answering interpellators; but few cared to listen. Indeed, few seemed to know what was going on. But the rising of the Chancellor of the Exchequer put a stop to all this inattention, and at once, as by an electric shock, silenced all noise, and concentrated all attention and all thought—we may say all the faculties of the mass before him—upon himself. Yes, there the great man stood, with all eyes fixed upon him and all ears open to receive his words. Those who know Disraeli must feel that he is exceedingly proud of such a position as this, and no wonder. He is an ambitious man. All his speeches and writings prove that he has an inordinate craving for fame; and here he has a position before the country and the world that gratifies and satisfies him to the top of his bent. In one of his novels he tells us "there is nothing so grand as events;" and there cannot be a doubt that he thinks that he, a great Minister of a great country, introducing a great measure, with the eyes of the greatest legislative assembly in the world upon him, and, figuratively, the eyes of all the world itself, is one of the grandest of events. He is making an epoch, writing a page of imperishable history. Can it be surprising, then, that he should be proud, as unquestionably he is? Mr. Disraeli, thus impressed, began his oration with all the solemnity, as he would say, fitting the gravity of the occasion, as his wont is on such important occasions as this. Sometimes he seems to us rather to overdo his part—becomes too solemn in his manner and tone, verging dangerously near to that finer line that proverbially separates the sublime from the ridiculous; and this we venture to say is the feeling of many of the members. Indeed, it has happened more than once that we have heard a faint, suppressed titter running along the Opposition benches when Disraeli was delivering some of his impressive passages in his most solemn tones. To be sure, this titter came from those Radical utilitarian fellows who are not at all susceptible to poetic sublimity. They call it, in their vulgar slang, "bosh"—the worldly, irreverent fellows! They are like the mathematician who, after reading "Paradise Lost," wanted to know what it proved. On the occurrence of such interruptions, Disraeli pauses for a moment, folds his arms, and smiles one of his contemptuous smiles, and thereupon there comes forth a volley of defiant cheers from the Conservative ranks that effectually suppresses all interruption. It is but fair to say, though, that Disraeli on this occasion soon dropped his solemn manner and tone, and speedily left the poetical and descended to the practical—or, rather, say to the politico-philosophical. Disraeli can be as great in this region as in the other; but if the poetical sublime is unsuited to Radical utilitarians, the philosophical is quite as unsuited to his own supporters. We have indeed often seen a curious, and to us a laughter-provoking, puzzled look upon the faces of the mass of country gentlemen whilst Mr. Disraeli was refining and defining in his abstract philosophic manner. Philosophy is by no means the forte of country gentlemen, and when Disraeli is reasoning philosophically, you can see by their puzzled countenances that he is getting, or has got, out of their depth. It was said of Burke, "Whilst he is refining the members are dining." Our Conservatives do not leave their chief to go and dine. They are too polite and courteous to do that, and, moreover, they are held by the hope that though he may be mounting to heights which are inaccessible to them, he will soon descend to their own practical level. On this occasion we are bound to say that Disraeli did very soon come down to the practical level, and that on this level he travelled for an hour with considerable ease, and even grace. In short, on the whole, he made a clear, practical, intelligible, if not a very successful, speech. Of course, there were occasional interrupting cries of "Oh, oh!" derisive cheers, and titters of laughter from "the Radical fellows" opposite; but only once, as far as we remember, did these cries, and cheers, and laughter become uproarious—that was when Disraeli, with solemn gravity, told us that the House last year arrived at the principle of a rating franchise by "unerring instinct." This was

too much for the Opposition to hear with gravity, and straightway there broke forth a burst of long-continued, uncontrollable laughter. Nor can we wonder at this when we remember that this rating principle was adopted, after a debate of several nights, by a majority of only 11 in a House of 623 members, and when we further recollect that this rating principle was notoriously put forward to destroy the bill and upset the Government.

## MR. GLADSTONE HIMSELF.

As soon as Mr. Disraeli sat down, Mr. Gladstone incontinently—that is, he could not restrain himself—jumped to his feet. We could see as we looked at the scene before us, whilst the Chancellor of the Exchequer was speaking, that his great opponent would, as soon as opportunity came, rush into the arena and grapple his foe. The right hon. gentleman, as we all know, is exceedingly impulsive; too much so, some say, for a leader of a great party. But nobody can deny that he has this Session restrained his impetuosity, and has waited his opportunity with admirable patience. He has tolerated all the mistakes, and vacillations, and delays, with wonderful charity; but now the time has come when charity, and tolerance, and patience are to be flung to the winds. Moreover, all the former Reform proposals were scarcely palpable enough to be successfully attacked. They were so shadowy, so indefinite in form, that when anyone approached to grasp them they eluded the grasp; but now, there is before the Liberal leader a bill—a palpable bill, in real bodily form—that he could clutch, examine, and dissect; and no doubt he is happy: happy that the tiresome truce is at an end; happy that he is once more confronting his old foe; and happy—unless he be more than mortal—that the time for exacting retribution has come. Mr. Gladstone began his speech with a quiet, calm, and stately exordium to gain the attention of his audience, and to prepossess his foes, if possible, in his favour. But, having done this, he at once proceeded to attack and dissect the measure with an eloquence, acuteness, and success that has scarcely ever been equalled. We have said that he proceeded to dissect the bill; but this is hardly the right phrase. It would be a better description if we were to say that he tore it to pieces limb from limb. And how thoroughly he enjoyed the work every body might see. Nor is this surprising. This time last year, or thereabouts, that is exactly how his opponent tore his bill to pieces, and so mangled it, that he indignantly threw it aside, and in his anger dissolved the Ministry. Now the tables are turned; now he is the operator, and his opponent's bill the subject. He is the torturer, and his enemies are upon the rack. Exactly how he did his work, and exactly what he said when he did it, form no part of our duty to report; nor is it necessary. Suffice it to say, that Gladstone was once more himself; that he spoke with all his old eloquence and force, and with even more than his accustomed fervour and passion. His opponents say that he was angry and spiteful; but it was not anger that he showed, but fervid earnestness; and, as to spite, there was certainly no sign of that malignant feeling in his oration. Spite means petty malignancy; and Mr. Gladstone is utterly incapable of that. The *Pall Mall Gazette* has described this speech, and we will quote the description:—"Mr. Disraeli," says the writer, "was listened to with languid indifference, broken only by a tendency to bantering interruptions on the part of the House. Mr. Gladstone, however, stirred it into excitement by one of his finest displays of oratory—oratory full of force and fire, but calm in its easy flow and consciousness of strength, and quite free from any temper or strained effect."

## SIR WILLIAM HEATHCOTE.

When the cheers which broke forth as Gladstone resumed his seat died away into silence, Sir William Heathcote's soft voice was heard. He, as our readers will recollect, is member for the University of Oxford—was for several years the colleague of Gladstone, and is still, notwithstanding their divergence in politics, his fast friend. Sir William is a Conservative—staunch, true, and immovable; but he wears his Conservatism with such an amiable grace, and is altogether so true a Christian gentleman, that men of all parties have come to respect him, and even to entertain for him feelings stronger than cold respect. Sir William is not, perhaps, a strong man; at all events, he makes no strong speeches. His utterances are rather marked by amiable good sense, expressed without the least pretensions to eloquence, and, coming from any other man, they would scarcely be listened to in the House of Commons; but such is the force of character that Sir William is always heard with patience, if not with earnest attention. But on this occasion the attention was unusual. Sir William is, as we have said, a Conservative; it had oozed out that at the meeting of Conservatives lately held he had declined to support the bill, and we were all anxious to hear what he would say, not because it would much signify in this great fight on which side Sir William's single vote would be given, but because he is a type of a class—a class for the most part silent; and we were anxious to get some indication of the policy of this class. Sir William spoke with characteristic caution and reserve, but, nevertheless, it was sufficiently clear that he will not support the bill.

## MR. LOWE'S PARTY OF ONE.

When the mild, lambent flame of Sir William's eloquence had gone out, Sir George Bowyer, Baronet, and Knight of Malta, rose, and the House, or the main part of it, rose too, as it generally does when the honourable Baronet begins to prose in his feeble and desultory style. Sir George said, as usual, nothing—or nothing to the purpose; and after him came Mr. Baring—Thomas Baring, the great City merchant. He spoke indecisively, and left the House in doubt whether he will support or oppose the bill. Then came Mr. Lowe, and the members whom Sir George had dispersed, and Mr. Baring could not recall, rushed back to their places, all expecting to hear a brilliant speech, sparkling with apposite quotations, smart epigrams, witty sallies, and other oratorical gems; or, if these should be absent, something forcible, piquant—in short, attractive and worth listening to. What position Mr. Lowe would take was not doubtful. He is for no reform, and, of course, would oppose the bill. Mr. Lowe's speech was not a great success. He made some telling hits, which elicited cheers from the Liberals and groans from the Conservatives, but he was clearly not up to the mark. We missed the fine flow of English with which he usually charms us. Indeed, at times he hesitated for words, had to mend his broken sentences, and, in short, was clearly not at ease. Men said that the reason was he had not studied and polished up his speech—that he was speaking extempore, and that extempore speaking is not his forte. However this may be, he certainly did not speak with the eloquence, force, and effect which distinguished his orations of last Session. We have said that occasionally he was groaned at by the Conservatives and cheered by their opponents. Think of that, readers! How has the scene changed since last Session! Then the right honourable gentleman was unto the Conservatives as a god—a god, with twanging bow, come down from Olympus specially to defend Conservatives in their need. Now, instead of uproarious cheers, which, as his sharp arrows told upon their enemies, surrounded him like a cloud of incense, he elicits only groans. How is this? Well, the reason is not far to seek. Then he was their ally against Reformers. Now they are, strange to say, themselves Reformers. He is not changed; it is they that have changed; and now, of course, his arrows are shot against them. Mr. Lowe's position in the House is singular—unique. He is probably the only man who ever led a party of one, and that one himself. But think not, readers, hardly of Mr. Lowe. He is only temporarily afflicted with a monomania against Parliamentary Reform. Apart from this single question, he is one of the most acute, liberal, and courageous Reformers in the House. Think of what he did when he was Vice-President of the Committee on Education—how he refused to pay the schoolmaster for a show of working, but only for work really done, and in this way saved the country a very large sum; and how bravely he spoke out, last Session, for University reform. No; let us not think hardly of him, for he has done the State service. And, as to this strange monomania, it will pass away; this Parliamentary-Reform obstacle will be removed, and then all

his fears and fallacies will be confuted by facts, and he will use soberly the democratic power in the House which he so much desires to secure the departmental reform which he so earnestly desires.

## SUMMARY.

The rest of the evening's proceedings we must pass over rapidly. Soon after Mr. Lowe sat down, Mr. Roebuck delivered to a thin House one of his characteristic speeches, in which cynicism and spite against Gladstone were more prominent than arguments, and forcible manner was more conspicuous than forcible matter. How are the mighty fallen! John Arthur Roebuck was once a power in the House; but he shows no power now but that of good English and emphatic, though obviously studied, action. Mr. Beresford Hope, though a Conservative, opposed the bill with his quaint, ponderous, and eccentric rhetoric. Mr. Butler-Johnstone supported it. This gentleman flowered prematurely and faded quickly. His first speech seemed to promise a successful Parliamentary career, but he has done nothing since. But what shall we say of Mr. Sandford, late Peacock? For half an hour the member for Maldon, who has always been a dull speaker, kept the House in a roar (we say, though parenthetically, that this is a feat not difficult to accomplish; for, as a Frenchman once said, "It is a laffable House"). What inspired Mr. Sandford—was it disgust that he was passed by when the Government was formed, or the proposal to deprive the delectable borough of Maldon of one member? We cannot say. Mr. Bernal Osborne, for Yorick, was dull; Lord Cranbourne, singularly prudent and calm; and then Disraeli came upon the boards, to finish off the debate and to end for the night this strange eventful history. And what a contrast between his manner now and that with which he opened the debate! He behaved like a stag at bay. He raised his voice to its highest pitch; his action was vehement; he pitched into Gladstone; he gored Mr. Lowe; he could hardly keep his rage within bounds when he answered "his noble friend" Lord Cranbourne. This speech closed the debate, the members then rushed away, and soon afterwards the curtain dropped.

## Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15.  
HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Earl of DERBY, in laying upon the table some correspondence which had taken place between Serbia and the Porte, announced that an arrangement had been come to on the question of the Serbian fortresses that was satisfactory to each of the parties interested. The Porte had consented not to demolish the fortress of Belgrade, but to hand it over to be garrisoned by Serbian troops, subject only to the condition that the Turkish flag should still float over it. Adverting to the subject on which a debate was raised by the Duke of Argyll on a previous night, the noble Earl added that despatches had reached the Foreign Office from Lord Lyons, dated the 6th inst., to the effect that the Porte was prepared to carry out the proposed reforms without delay, and that with the view of improving the condition of its Christian subjects the public service was to be thrown open to them, and as far as possible all distinctions abolished between Christian and Mussulman.

Earl GREY, in presenting a petition on the subject of Parliamentary Reform, seized the occasion to expound his views of what should constitute a just settlement of the question. The speech of the noble Earl elicited no response, and the petition was ordered to lie upon the table.

The Traffic Regulation (Metropolis) Bill passed through Committee. The Shipping Local Dues Bill was read a second time.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## LIFE SENTENCES.

Mr. WALPOLE, in reply to Mr. Hibbert, said that when he acceded to the Home Office he found that his predecessor had had his attention directed to the question whether the end of twelve years was or was not the proper time for revising life sentences. The result was that the practice now in operation was approved of—namely, that life sentences should not be revised until the expiration of twenty years after the sentence was passed. In like manner the sentence for twenty years was to be revised at the end of fifteen years, and the sentence for twenty-four years at the end of eighteen. He himself had long entertained the opinion that, on the abolition of transportation, it might become necessary to consider whether it would not be right to secure some place near the United Kingdom—for example, Lundy Island—where such convicts might be placed and receive a severer punishment than in the ordinary convict prisons. Under all the circumstances, he was of opinion that it had better remain with the Home Secretary to determine whether a convict should undergo the whole sentence for life, or whether there might not be reasons to justify a commutation.

## FLOGGING IN THE ARMY.

Mr. OTWAY drew attention to the subject of military flogging, and in doing so pointed out the extent to which the practice had grown and the increase that had taken place in the class of offences for which the punishment is awarded. He contended that flogging was unnecessary for the maintenance of discipline, as was proved in the armies of France and Prussia, and that it operated most injuriously upon recruiting. Under these circumstances he moved, That this House, reserving for future consideration when requisite the question of the exigencies of a state of war, is of opinion that it is unnecessary that the punishment of flogging should be awarded during the time of peace to soldiers of the Army or corps of Royal Marines serving on shore.

Major ANSON seconded the motion; which, after a long debate, was carried by a majority of one.

## MONDAY, MARCH 18.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House of Lords sat but for a very short time, and the business disposed of was of a routine nature.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER explained the provisions of the Reform Bill, premising at the outset that his remarks would be divided under two heads—the object the Government had in view in dealing with the question and the means they thought best fitted to attain that object. On the first head he remarked that the Government wished to sustain and strengthen the varied character and functions of the House of Commons, by which it had risen to its present power and reputation, and to do this by placing the representation on a broad and popular basis; but he warned those who deemed the franchise to be a democratic right, and not a popular privilege, that there would be much in the bill which they would not approve. Passing to the details of the scheme, he first examined at length the principles on which the franchise in boroughs ought to rest, pointing out that every bill since the Reform Act had proceeded on the principle of a diminution of value, and concluded that by the division on Lord Dunkellin's basis. The Government had, therefore, accepted the principle that the franchise should be associated with the payment of rates, and they proposed that every household paying rates and having resided two years should be admitted to vote. This would admit 237,000 men who live in houses under £10 and pay rates, leaving unenfranchised 486,000 householders not paying their own rates. But every facility would be given to compound householders to take upon themselves the payment of their own rates, and to obtain in consequence the right of voting. After an elaborate argument upon the £5 franchise, which he strongly condemned, characterising it as a Serbian bog, and asserting that its logical result in many places would be manhood suffrage, Mr. Disraeli next announced that the bill would confer the franchise on payers of £1 direct taxes (not including licences of any kind), and householders (in towns only) paying £1 direct taxes would be allowed to exercise the franchise in respect of both suffrages. It would also contain an education franchise, and would give the franchise to the holders of savings bank deposits and funded property to the amount of £50. The direct-tax franchise would add a number greatly exceeding 200,000 (though this was only an estimate), the education franchise 35,000, the funded property franchise 25,000, and the savings-bank franchise 45,000; in all, more than 1,000,000 would be added to the borough constituency. In the counties the franchise would be fixed at £15 rating, which would add 171,000, and the lateral franchisees would bring the total additions to the county constituencies to some 330,000. The Government, Mr. Disraeli said, had carefully considered the plan of cumulative voting and three-cornered constituencies, and had tried it at every point, but had come to the conclusion that it was erroneous in principle and would be pernicious in practice; and, passing to the redistribution scheme, he announced that it was substantially the same as that of the bill of the 25th ult.—viz., that thirty seats would be redistributed, fourteen to new boroughs, fifteen to counties, and one to London University. He defended it from the charge of inadequacy, pointing out that there was no medium between constructing a new electoral map of England and seizing opportunities as they arose of remedying pressing inequalities, by giving members to new boroughs as they rose into importance, and by adding to the direct representation of important constituencies; and, after dwelling on the sacrifices the Conservative party has made to agree on a practical measure, and on the personal chagrin and mortification he had undergone, he concluded by expressing a hope that this bill would be fairly considered by the



House, and a belief that it afforded the means of a lasting and satisfactory settlement.

Mr. GLADSTONE, while reserving to himself the liberty of deciding what course he would take on the bill as a whole until he saw it, intimated that his impression of it from Mr. Disraeli's speech was in many respects perplexing and not pleasing. He ridiculed Mr. Disraeli's sudden reverence for the principle of rating, reminding him that the House, in dealing with the county franchise last year, had decided against it; condemned the redistribution as inadequate, though it might be dealt with in detail in Committee, and denied altogether the accuracy of Mr. Disraeli's figures. The great majority of the householders he expected to come in were mere "men in buckram;" instead of 237,000, not more than 140,000 would appear. That part of the scheme which relates to personal payment of rates and compound householders Mr. Gladstone warmly attacked, pointing out in an elaborate argument that the processes by which they are admitted to the register differ in different boroughs, that they are under the management of the local authorities, and that in most cases the vote would be accompanied by a fine in the shape of increased rates. He showed, too, what facilities would be given for the manufacture of votes by electioneering agents. He also expressed his personal conviction that it would be a great advantage if the reduction of the franchise downwards could be made to stop with the personal payment of rates. The three safeguards of the bill were residence, rating, and dual voting; and he examined these in detail, showing that rating would act very irregularly, and that large numbers might be excluded in some towns by the action of vestries and special local Acts, while in agricultural boroughs the franchise would be virtually manhood suffrage; and on the dual vote Mr. Gladstone emphatically declared, amid loud cheering, that he was implacably hostile to it, that it was a gigantic engine of fraud, and the proclamation of a war of classes. He remarked next on the absence of the lodger franchise from the bill, quoting Mr. Disraeli's description of it in 1859, and predicting that it would have to be introduced into the bill. Duality and personal payment of rates were practically dead as safeguards already, and with the addition of a lodger franchise no doubt it would be a very advantageous bill for the Liberal party, but how it was to be treated as a whole by the Liberal party was a question for future consideration.

Sir WILLIAM HEATHCOTE reserved to himself the liberty of forming a judgment on the bill at a future stage, but at present his impression was unfavourable.

Sir G. BOWYER defended rating as the Constitutional foundation of every franchise, condemned the dual voting, and was of opinion that the proper solution of redistribution was to increase the number of members.

Mr. LOWE warned the supporters of the bill that, so far from having touched sound ground in household suffrage, they had lighted on a quicksand which would be no safeguard against further downward progress. In fact, the present suffrage was household, with the limit or safeguard of £10 rental, and a personal payment of rates would not be found so stable even as £10 rental; for it would be attended with more personal annoyances to the voters, and they would be more anxious to sweep it away. If the compound householders were intended to have votes, all this machinery ought to be swept away; if not, the change would differ little from a £6 rental. Mr. Gladstone's proposal that the franchise should be brought down to meet the point where personal payment of rates ceased Mr. Lowe thought worth the consideration of the House; but expressed the strongest repugnance for the dual vote, which was founded on the fallacy that the taxing power was the chief function of the House of Commons, was insulting to those who were to be admitted to the franchise, and would create such glaring inequalities that a fresh agitation must immediately follow.

Mr. HENLEY decidedly approved the proposal of the bill to connect the vote with payment of rates, and had no doubt that the difficulties as to the compound householders might be easily settled in Committee if both sides would set their shoulders to the wheel with a firm determination to settle the question. The figure of £15 for the counties, approaching closely to the house tax, met his view; but the dual vote he regarded as a piece of unmitigated mischief, which was unnecessary because the people who were to come in would be as much divided as any other class in opinions.

Mr. ROEBUCK saw no difficulty in arranging all the objections taken by Mr. Gladstone, on the ratifying part of the scheme, in Committee; and, animadverting on Mr. Gladstone's speech, hinted that the main motive for those objections was a mere party feeling. The dual vote, of course, was impossible; but it was evidently not a vital point. He urged the House to bear in mind that if this bill were rejected and the Government thrown out (for he did not believe in a dissolution) a dead-lock would follow; and he advised it to read the bill a second time and deal with it in Committee.

Mr. B. HOPE made some sarcastic observations on the spectacle of a Conservative Government outbidding Liberals in a Liberal market, and denounced the bill as a two-faced business, which might prove so restrictive that it would take away with one hand what it seemed to give with the other, or else would entail household suffrage in a most dangerous form.

Mr. BUTLER-JOHNSTONE supported the main features of the bill, except the dual vote; and spoke in a sanguine tone of the prospects of a speedy settlement, which he greatly desired, as until it came to pass we never could again be a united people.

Mr. C. BUXTON intimated that he should take an opportunity of asking the opinion of the House on cumulative voting.

Mr. SANDFORD, having expressed an opinion that the bill was inconsistent with the resolutions and that the dual voting was illusory, sharply attacked Sir J. Pakington for his recent speech at Droitwich, and asserted that the Cabinet had not considered a Reform Bill a week before Parliament met.

Mr. B. OSBORNE exhorted the House not to give way to party spirit, which would strangle the last chance of passing a Reform Bill this Session, nor to be too precipitate in condemning a measure which it had never seen. He hoped there would be no repetition of the mistakes of 1859, but that the bill would be read a second time and dealt with in Committee. On the merits of the bill he expressed himself decidedly opposed to the dual vote and the redistribution scheme.

Lord CRANBOURNE, alluding to a remark of Mr. Osborne, asserted that the House had a right to know what were held to be vital points, particularly as this was a bill of checks and compensations; and he did not believe that his late colleagues were the men to pass this bill entirely without compensations. But of the two compensations it proposed—dual voting and personal payment of rates—the first would not only be utterly ineffective, but it was so unpalatable that it had no chance of acceptance; and the second was certain to be swept away by the very first Parliament elected under it. By tracing the practical operation of the security, he showed that the cost to each compound householder for getting his name on the register would be about 5s. a year; and here he predicted the corrupt machinery of the electioneering agents would come in. He showed, too, how unequally it would work in the boroughs (ninety-eight in number), to which the Small Tenements Act was only partially applied; and from all this he concluded that the security would be swept away immediately; that household suffrage, pure and simple, would be the result; and this, he maintained, after their conduct of last year, the Conservative party ought not to be the persons to pass. If the party accepted the bill they would be committing political suicide; but he hoped the moderate party on both sides would retain sufficient influence to secure that, while skilled artisans were introduced into the electoral body in fair numbers, existing interests would not be subverted.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER made an animated reply, attacking Mr. Gladstone for his inconsistency, defending the accuracy of his own figures, and asserting that it was a calumny on the working man to assume that he would resent the connection of the Constitutional obligation to pay rates with the political privilege of voting. Replying to an observation of Lord Cranbourne, he declared with much emphasis that the Government would never introduce household suffrage, pure and simple; and he urged the House not to listen to what he hinted was the object of Mr. Gladstone's elaborately-prepared speech—the rejection of the bill before its second reading.

Leave was then given to bring in the bill, and it was subsequently read the first time.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 19.

### HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Metropolitan Poor Bill was read a second time. The Traffic Regulation (Metropolis) Bill was reported, and an amendment agreed to authorising the Commissioner of Police to regulate the bearers of advertising-boards, *vulgo*, "advertising-sandwiches."

Lord REDESDALE withdrew his bill exempting the rolling stock of railways from seizure by single creditors for a limited period, after a speech against the measure by Lord CAIRNS.

The Duty on Dogs Bill was passed through Committee.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

#### DUAL VOTING.

Mr. BRIGHT inquired whether, after the expression of opinion on the previous night with reference to the proposed dual system of voting, it was intended by Ministers to adhere to that portion of their Reform scheme.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER replied that the bill he had obtained leave to introduce was only just placed in the hands of members, and that the proper occasion on which to discuss such important points as the one mentioned by Mr. Bright was when the measure came on for second reading.

#### PECCANT MEMBERS AND MAGISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS.

Mr. BAGGE inquired of the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether Mr. William Henry Leatham, Mr. Philip Vanderbyl, Mr. E. W. Watkin, and Mr. Alfred Seymour, who had been reported as connected with certain corrupt practices at elections, were members of the House; and, if justices of the peace, whether the Government intended to remove them from the several commissions to which they belonged.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER almost convulsed the House with the humorous character of his reply. The question was one, he said, which it was very difficult to answer, because in the annals of the jurisprudence of the present day there was nothing more startling than the frequency of cases of mistaken identity. Anyone, therefore, who occupied the responsible position he filled must be cautious how he gave an opinion on a subject in

which such mistakes might occur. There was certainly a considerable similarity of names between those which had been quoted by Mr. Bagge and those habitually used by certain members of the House. On the other hand, if he were to judge of the accuracy of his hon. friend's statement by the general conduct of the gentlemen in question, he should say that, from the purity of their motives, the liberal tone they always adopted, and the readiness which they showed in condemning Tory corruption, the *prima facie* evidence was that they could not be the same. Under those circumstances, all he could do, as leader of the House, was to suggest, as the most practicable course for procuring the information required, that his hon. friend should move the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into and ascertain the facts of the case. Mr. Watkin and Mr. Vanderbyl entered into some explanation.

#### FIRE INSURANCE.

Mr. H. SHERIDAN moved a resolution to the effect that a further reduction of the duty on fire insurances would have a tendency to bring within the protection of insurance a large amount of the present uninsured property of the country, and that a further reduction of the duty should therefore be made at the earliest opportunity.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER met the resolution with the "previous question," which was carried by 215 to 156. The motion was therefore lost.

#### CASE OF MR. CHURCHWARD.

Mr. TAYLOR moved an address to the Queen praying that she would give directions that Mr. Churchward might be removed from the commission of the peace for the borough of Dover.

Major DICKSON warmly defended the character of Mr. Churchward, who, he contended, was the victim of unprecedented political persecution.

Mr. C. BENTINCK moved, as an amendment, that an address be presented to the Crown praying that directions be given to remove from the commission of the peace all persons who had been found guilty of or of having assented to corrupt practices in Parliamentary elections.

A long debate thereupon ensued. On a division there were 141 for Mr. Taylor's motion, and 161 against it. Mr. Bentinck's amendment was then put to the House and carried, without a division.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

#### CHURCH RATES.

Mr. HARDCASTLE, in moving the second reading of the Church Rates Abolition Bill, expressed a hope that the Government, who had displayed so great a tendency to liberality in other matters, would do the same in respect of this long-vexed question, and relieve Dissenters from that which was a palpable injustice.

Mr. BAINES seconded the motion, and, speaking on behalf of the Non-conformist community generally, said they were quite prepared to abandon all claim to interfere in the application of any funds which Churchmen might raise for the maintenance of their own religious fabrics.

Mr. B. HOPE moved as an amendment that the bill be read the second time that day six months, but qualified his opposition to the measure by declaring his willingness to adopt the compromise proposed by Mr. Hubbard's Church-rates Regulation Bill.

Mr. GORST seconded the amendment, contending that total abolition would be a hardship on the poor in rural districts.

Mr. WALPOLE reminded the House that, eight years ago, when the Earl of Derby was last in power, his Government proposed a measure of compromise almost identical with that of Mr. Hubbard; and that was rejected, not by the Conservative party, but by a combined movement on the other side. Ministers were still ready to abide by that compromise, believing that the proposals of Mr. Hubbard furnished the best means of settling the question. The House divided, and the numbers were—For the second reading, 263; against it, 187: majority for the second reading, 76. The bill was then read the second time.

Mr. NEWDEGATE moved the second reading of his Church Rates Commutation Bill, the provisions of which he explained at some length, and the principal object of which was to limit the amount of church rate, terminate the personal liability, and make the rate a charge upon property.

Mr. Serjeant GASELEE, thinking that it was useless for the hon. gentleman to expect to make any progress with such a measure, moved as an amendment the second reading of the bill that day six months.

The amendment was seconded by Mr. HADFIELD, and, upon a division, the second reading was negatived by 177 to 45. The bill was therefore lost.

Mr. HUBBARD postponed until Wednesday next the second reading of his Church Rates Regulation Bill.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 21.

### HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House was occupied for some time with the consideration of the Trades Union Bill in Committee. There was not much progress made, however, as their Lordships resumed while still engaged upon clause 3.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

#### FREEHOLD VOTERS.

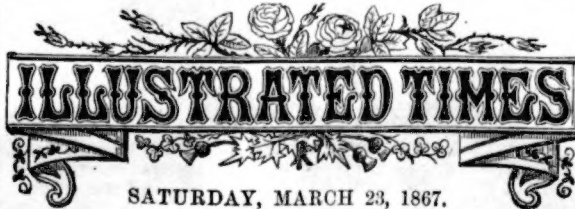
Mr. H. Vivian asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a forty-shilling freeholder, residing on his own freehold within a borough, and paying rates, would not become a borough voter, and thereby lose his county qualification under the proposed Reform Bill.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said—Yes: he would become a borough voter if he lived in his own house.

#### THE REFORM BILL.

Mr. GLADSTONE asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the conditions of voting in boroughs, so far as they are affected by the bill of the Government, are to be the same for occupiers of the value of £10 and upwards as for occupiers under £10; or, if not, in what respects they differed: whether it was intended by the bill that the occupying franchise in boroughs, which now depends upon the occupation of "any house, warehouse, counting-house, shop, or other building," is henceforward to depend upon the occupation of dwelling-houses exclusively; whether the total number of male occupiers stated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his speech on Monday consisted exclusively of the occupiers of dwelling-houses; whether her Majesty's Government will lay upon the table their estimates of the numbers of voters to be enfranchised under the several clauses of the bill, together with the data, so far as they think fit, upon which such estimates are framed; and whether an occupier, claiming to be registered under clause 34, when a composition or other reduced rate on the premises has been duly paid by his landlord, must, in order to be registered, pay the difference between such reduced rate and the rate which would have been chargeable upon him if directly rated.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, in regard to the first two questions, they were framed in a misapprehension of the measure of the Government. It did not interfere with any of the provisions of the Act of 1832. As to the first question, the conditions of voting in boroughs for occupiers above £10 and below £10 were not the same. With regard to the second question, his answer to the first applied in a certain degree to this; persons who had a vote in respect of any house, warehouse, &c., under the Act of 1832, would retain their vote; but in respect of occupiers below £10, Government thought the franchise should only be conferred on occupiers of houses. As to the number of voters, it was quite impossible to give the exact numbers; but there was before the House a variety of documents from which an estimate might be formed. With regard to the last question, the right hon. gentleman replied in the affirmative. Mr. Disraeli also stated, in reply to questions, that it was the intention of Government to introduce Reform bills for Scotland and Ireland this Session.



SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1867.

### TOPICS OF THE DAY.

THE long-expected Reform Bill has not been much better received than the thirteen resolutions which preceded it, and which certainly prepared the public for as bad a bill as the one which has actually been proposed. More general dissatisfaction has seldom been expressed in regard to a really important measure than that which has been called forth by Mr. Disraeli's Reform scheme. Neither the Conservatives nor the extreme Liberal party, nor, least of all, the moderate Liberals, have a word to say for it. In and out of the House it has been the same. The *Herald* scarcely ventures to defend it, the *Standard* praises it in one sentence and blames it in another, the *Day*, the "new organ of Constitutional Liberalism," is obliged to give it up, while the *Times*, the *Pall Mall Gazette*, the *Telegraph*, and the *Star* oppose it on nearly all points. If the Government would declare

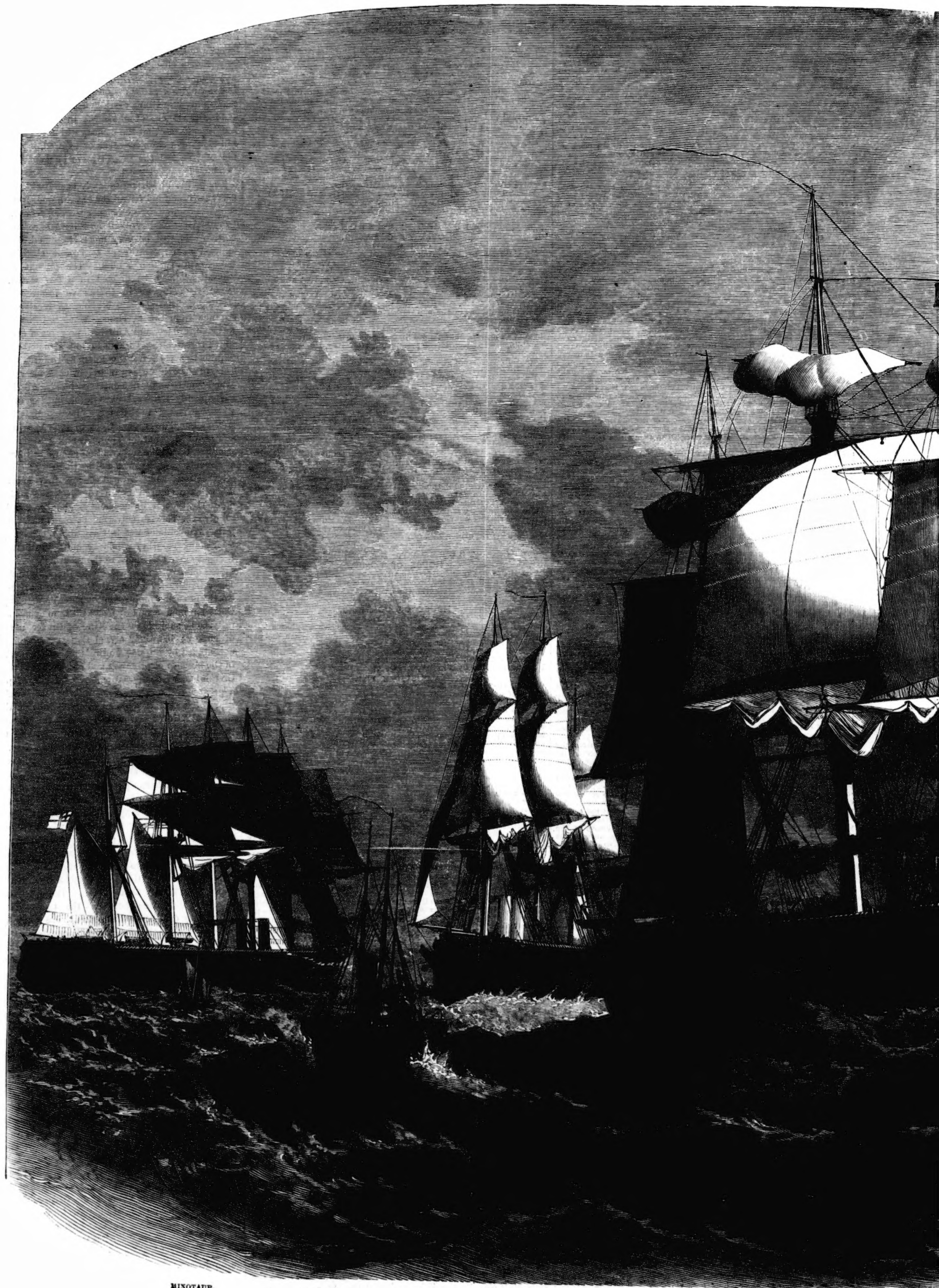
themselves willing to let the bill be improved to an unlimited extent in Committee, then there would, no doubt, be an excellent chance of getting it passed; but nothing can be done with it in its present shape. A Conservative Reform Bill, modified in Committee so as to deprive it of all Conservative features, would, of course, be the same thing as a Liberal Reform Bill; and, if the present Government wish to do the work of Mr. Gladstone, it will be open to them to take that course. Otherwise, the sooner they vacate office the better. A Government capable of proposing anything so utterly unacceptable as it now finds dual voting to be, to the House of Commons, as well as to the country at large, may distinguish themselves by absurdities and inconsistencies of all kinds. In the meanwhile, one thing is quite certain—that the country will not tolerate any Reform Bill of which the object, real or avowed, is to increase, not the Liberal, but the Conservative element in the House of Commons.

The political horizon has lately been darkened by the reappearance of our old friend the Eastern question. This terrible subject—beloved by newspaper writers, feared, with justice, by newspaper readers—will now have once more to be discussed. It will be very much simplified, however, if, as appears likely, all the great Powers abstain from interference in Turkish affairs. The present aspect of the "question" may be defined in a few words. An insurrection is going on in Crete; an insurrection is just beginning in Thessaly, and is about to receive important assistance from the Servians. What is to be the attitude of England, France, and Austria in presence of these movements, which threaten the Turkish Empire with destruction and seem to prepare a path for the Russians towards Constantinople? This, in our opinion, is precisely a case for applying the so-called "doctrine of non-intervention." All that this phrase, so frequently abused, means in the mouths of political men, all that it meant in the mouth of Canning, who first used it, is that one Power ought not to interfere in the domestic affairs of another. Thus, Canning condemned, in the strongest terms, the intervention of France in Spain on behalf of absolute government; and by this very "doctrine of non-intervention" England, had she thought it necessary to do so, might have entered Spain to check the action of France. Similarly, though France and England would have no right to give the Turkish Government assistance against its subjects in rebellion—nor is there the remotest probability of their doing so—they would be quite justified in forbidding Russia to give assistance to the rebels.

It is quite certain that both the Cretan insurrection and the Thessalian insurrection (if the movement in Thessaly be worthy of such a high-sounding name) are got-up affairs. The Christian inhabitants of Crete wish, no doubt, and very naturally, to be subjects of the King of Greece, not of the Sultan of Turkey; but their armed rising has been promoted and encouraged by Russia; and it is more than doubtful whether, in the absence of promises and of direct aid from abroad, the Cretan bands—composed partly, no doubt, of patriots, but in a great measure also of mere brigands—would have been heard of at all. It appears tolerably certain that the end of the Cretan insurrection will be that the island of Crete will be annexed to the kingdom of Greece; and this is the termination that we cannot help desiring. For, although the rising of Cretan patriots and brigands may have been planned and directed from abroad, it is undeniable that a large proportion of the Cretan population have been risking their lives in an endeavour to free themselves from Turkish rule, while no one hears of a single Cretan who has offered to fight on behalf of the Turks. Besides, we, who gave up the Ionian islands to Greece, cannot maintain with a very good grace—as some of our journals, nevertheless, seem inclined to do—that no hopes are to be entertained of the Greek Government, and that the Greeks are really no better than the Turks themselves. There seems to us to be this difference between the two—that the Greeks, bad as they may be at this moment, are capable of improvement; whereas the Turks are incapable of improvement. The Greeks at least are Europeans, but the Turks are not even Europeanised. The Turk is not quite such a Turk as he used to be; but that is not because he has become more civilised, but only because he has become decrepit. His government may be strong and cruel, or it may be weak and, to outward appearance, humane; but it is not likely to become a civilising government, or a government tolerant of civilisation. The Turks, since their settlement in Europe 400 years ago, have produced a few warriors, and even one or two able, or at least energetic, administrators; but in art, literature, science, they have remained what, from our Christian European point of view, we suppose they always will be—irreclaimable barbarians. Modern Greece has its historians; Servia and Roumania can boast of a rich poetical literature; Russia, certainly the least civilised of the large States of Europe, has during the last hundred years produced a certain number of eminent men in every department of human thought and action; but Turkey, for all that gives dignity and charm to life, as life is understood by Europeans, is, and always has been, a dead country.

The action of the Cretans, the Greeks, the Servians, and other more or less Christian foes in various parts of the Turkish empire must altogether have a very weakening effect on the Sultan's resources; but it is not our place to help to impose the Turkish yoke on those who are determined to bear it no longer. The unwilling ones may, as is often said, be merely tools in the hands of Russia; but, unless it should be made very plain indeed that such is the case, we shall still have no right to interfere.





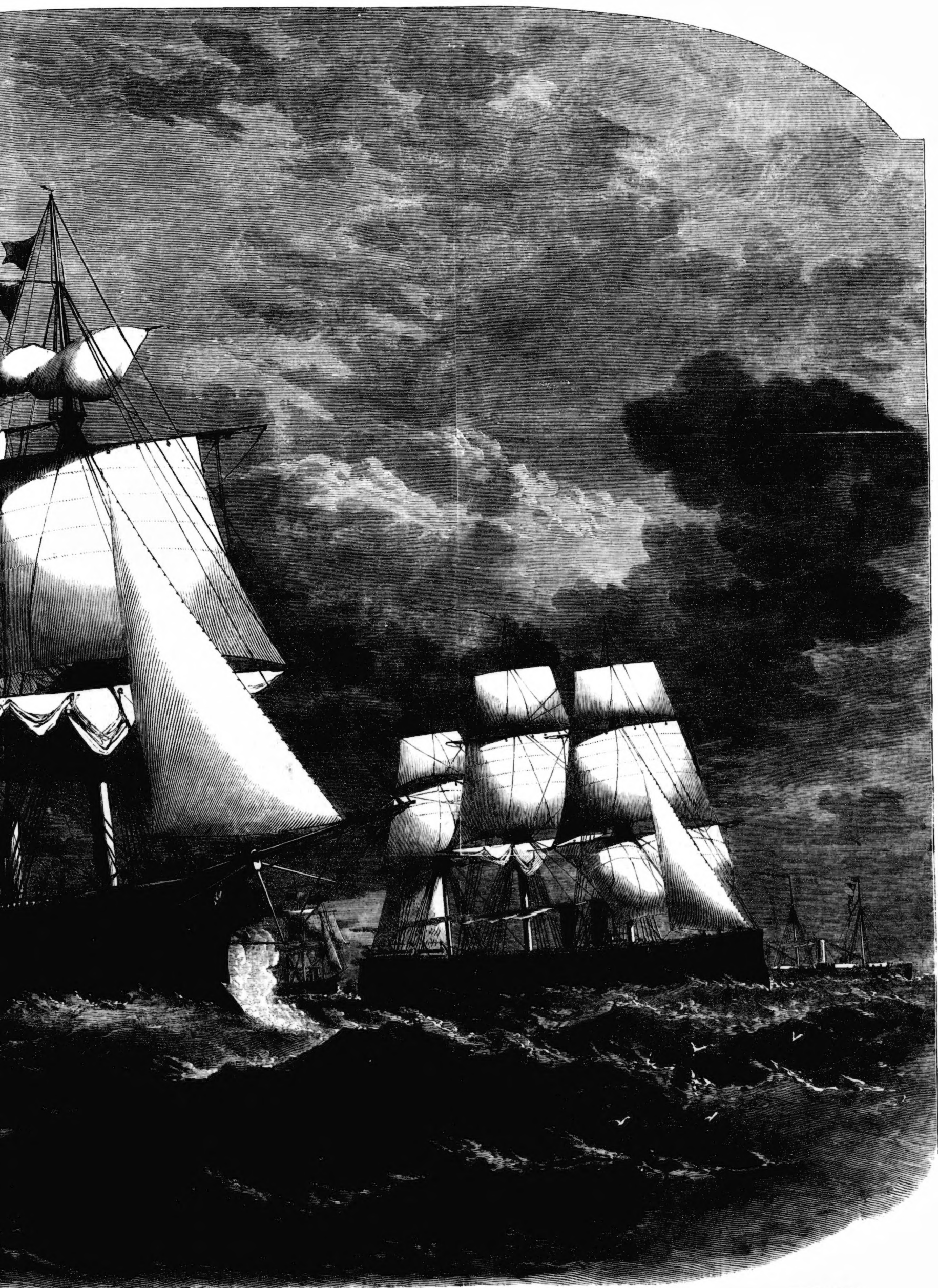
MINOTAUR.

LORD CLYDE.

BELLEROPHON.

OUR IRON-CLAD





WARRIOR.

ACHILLES

PRINCE ALBERT.



## THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

NEVER in my experience has there been such an imbroglio, so much perplexity, such a strange interweaving and entanglement of parties in the political world as now. Conservatives are denouncing the bill because, as they say, it goes too far. Radicals denounce it because it does not go far enough. Whilst, as I can assure you, many Whigs intend to support it if it can be changed a little, and are actually canvassing for votes in its favour. What will ultimately happen no one can say, because no one can tell what the Government will do. The dual voting is to be given up; of this you may be sure. But will the Government give up that part of the bill which confines the franchise to those ratepayers who personally pay their rates? If not there will be on that question a fight, and I think a victory over the Government. But in the present confusion nobody can tell. Neither Colonel Taylor nor Mr. Brand, I am sure, would venture to prophesy. I have been told by many members that there will be a great many Liberals who will refuse to follow their leader if he shall go in for household suffrage pure and simple; and I myself know some who will mutiny. One fact I think I discern in this welter of confusion—to wit, that there will be no opposition pushed to a division on the second reading. I think Gladstone would like to try to crush the bill at once; but he, like many more, doubts if the attempt would succeed, and, I believe, will not make it, but let the bill go into Committee and try to mangle it there. But what will the Government do if, one by one, the checks and counterpoises to household suffrage should be destroyed—dual voting, the personal payment of rates, and the trumpery fancy franchises, which most people think must go? Will Lord Derby and Disraeli still persist in carrying the bill? If so, we shall have reproduced the scene which we had when Peel carried the repeal of the corn laws with only a change of characters. Disraeli will head the Radical party and a minority of his own, with a goodly sprinkling of Whigs under the captaincy of Gladstone; whilst in the Opposition lobby there will be such a strange assortment of animals, the like of which has never been seen out of the ark. Tories, Whigs, Adullamites, not to mention Mr. Lowe, who is himself a party. This will be a strange ending; but it is on the cards.

There is a rumour that Walpole and Hardy have resigned, or will speedily resign. If this rumour should prove true, the end will come; but I doubt its truth. Walpole has closely attended the House lately, and Hardy's absence the death of his brother accounts for. Ralph Earle was obliged to resign the secretaryship of the Poor-Law Board; for how could he hold a place in a Government which threatens to rob his borough (Maldon) of a member? Thus this borough, then, will cost him £2000 a year if the Government should keep in office.

Everybody who thinks about politics at all is engaged in canvassing the provisions of Lord Derby's Reform Bill and a variety of cognate topics; and as everybody who thinks is desirous of laying his thoughts before his neighbours, I have received a variety of letters on the subject of the franchise and Parliamentary Reform generally. The points that seem to receive most attention in connection with the franchise are the positions likely to be occupied by compound householders and lodgers: neither of whom are regarded as receiving anything like a fair measure of justice. The increased stringency of the residential test proposed by Mr. Disraeli is also conceived to bear hard upon householder electors who have had occasion to remove from one Parliamentary district to another.

As one letter I have received illustrates the hardship of this class of persons as well as of compound householders, perhaps you will permit me, Mr. Editor, to lay the following extract from it before your readers. My correspondent says:—"I am a compositor, and consequently my occupation makes it needful that I should possess a degree of education and intelligence equal to, say the least, to that of the generality of handicraftsmen, or even of traders. How far my acquirements fulfil the above condition, you may judge by this letter. I do not wish to boast, but I think I could stand an examination on most of the ordinary branches of education as well as many who take higher rank in society, and perhaps make greater pretensions to learning than I do. Let that pass, however. What I wanted to show was the absurdity and unfairness of the personal ratepaying system. In 1865, and for the four years preceding, I occupied and paid rates upon a house in the borough of Finsbury, which entitled me to a vote, and I did vote at the last general election accordingly. That was not a very grand house; for, taxes and all, it only cost me about £24 a year. It was, however, sufficient to make me, politically, somebody. But I was getting on pretty well in the world; and, thinking I could afford it, I treated myself to a better house—one that stood me in exactly £28 a year, or £4 more than my old cottage. The owner of my new house, however, compounded with the parish for the taxes; consequently, I lost my vote, unless I chose to incur a vast deal of trouble and get into a collision with my landlord, who owns two whole streets of similar houses, the taxes on all of which are compounded for. I wished to undertake the payment of my own taxes, in order to keep my name on the register; but I soon found that this did not suit my landlord's views, who was averse to having any question raised as to the valuation of his property. 'I might pay the rates if I liked; but no deduction would be made from the rent; and, if I did not like that, I could accommodate myself elsewhere; he did not like political fellows in his houses.' So he told me; and, as you will presently understand, I took the hint. Now, was I any worse qualified to exercise the suffrage in 1866, when occupying a £28 house, than I was in 1865, when residing in a £24 tenement? And yet, you see, accident shut me out from the privilege of citizenship. But that is not the whole of the hardship I suffer. Still hankering after the right of entrée to the polling-booth, and having gained another step on the social ladder, I determined once more to expend a larger portion of my earnings in bricks and mortar. So I took a house a few weeks ago which will run to at least £32 a year. It is not in Finsbury, however, but in a borough besouth the Thames, so of course I made up my mind to undergo the year's probationary residence required ere I could regain my lost vote. But here I reckoned without the Conservative Reform Bill, which condemns me to an extra year's ostracism. Call ye that dealing even-handed justice? What have I done to merit such treatment? First, denuded of my vote by 'a fluke,' if I may borrow a phrase from the billiard-room vocabulary; and then to have my efforts and sacrifices rendered nugatory for another year by what is called an extension of the suffrage! Truly, a pursuit of voting under difficulties, this. The compound-householder question, though a very important one, does not immediately concern me now. But why should I be placed in a worse position after the passing of a reform bill than before? That is what I want to know."

I am not an advocate of strikes, even when the strikers are justified in their demands, because I believe that such a course generally ends in loss to all parties concerned, winners included; but there is one strike going on just now to which I heartily wish success. The agricultural labourers of Buckinghamshire, it seems, are of opinion that their present wages of 9s. a week are insufficient to maintain themselves and their families "with the quarter loaf at 8d. and coals at 1s. 1d. per cwt." Well, I should think most people will agree with the Bucks labourers, except, of course, the Bucks farmers. When the Thames shipwrights declare themselves unable to live on less than 7s. 6d. a day, it seems a marvel how Bucks peasants can exist on 9s. a week. I am quite aware that the nominal money-wage does not in many—indeed, in most—cases represent the full remuneration received by agricultural labourers for their services. There are generally certain additions, in the shape of allowances of milk, in garden ground, advantages in the purchase of butter, cheese, flour, and other farm products, which are of no inconsiderable value—comparatively speaking, that is. Garden-ground, particularly, is an important affair to the labourer. He generally has time enough at his disposal for cultivating it, and the produce, whether consumed by himself and family or sold, adds considerably to his means of existence. But, even with every addition allowed for, those means are of the scantiest; and it is no more than reasonable that the peasant should participate in the general rise of income enjoyed by other classes—farmers included.

Farm produce of every description—grain, butter, cheese, beef, mutton, bacon—brings higher and steadier prices, on an average, now than at any previous period; consequently, farmers are more prosperous, and landlords get higher rents than ever. Why should not labourers get better wages too?

A correspondent furnishes me with the subjoined specimens of, and comments on, the amenities of Conservative journalism. The italics, I presume, are my correspondent's:—

Dear Mr. Lounger.—I wonder if you or any of your numerous readers ever heard of a paper called the *Cheltenham Looker-on*? I trow not; for the fame thereof is hardly likely to have extended beyond the limits of the place where fashion and gossip reign supreme. I came accidentally across a stray copy the other day, and was so much edified by a perusal of it that I cannot resist giving you and your readers the benefit of my acquaintance with what I devoutly hope is a rare specimen of *polite literature*. The following extract is cut from a column with the somewhat mysterious heading, "Our Whispering Gallery;" and I am disposed to think you will agree with me in considering the style of language adopted in this gallery more suitable for the little-tattle which the *Cheltenham loungers* may be supposed to whisper into each other's ears than for that which amuses your own readers, living within sight of the dome which incloses its real prototype:—

The first sentence "whispered" by the *Looker-on* commences as follows:—"The Premier is labouring under another of those unfortunate attacks of gout which appear to afflict him at the most awkward and critical periods of his official life." The Chancellor of the Exchequer is supposed to be pleased "to find that the Estimates prepared for the Army and Navy, though undoubtedly large enough to challenge the criticism of Mr. Seely, the member for Lincoln, and the 'bores' below the gangway, are still less than were originally contemplated, as the necessary consequence of years of *Whig jobbery and incapacity*!" The *Looker-on* gives it as his opinion that "there is abundant evidence to show that Reform is again to be made the football of party; and that, while many social amendments are urgently needed, the time and attention of Parliament will be distracted with the efforts of an *unscrupulous faction* to regain political ascendancy."

It is next "whispered" that "The *sacred* action of the house of Russell has been sent into Yorkshire to agitate, and the metropolitan members have got their instructions to blow the horn of the party at the vestry-rooms and public-houses where local politicians most abound." A little further on we are told that "two members of Lord Derby's Cabinet will be unable to participate in the Ministerial festivities which usually precede the opening of Parliament," which, I suppose, means in plain language that they would be unable to attend the Speaker's dinner. "Lord Naas" (one of the members in question), we are told, "is certainly not popular in the House of Commons, where his manner is considered *overbearing and discourteous*, while in Committee of the House he assumes a position quite inconsistent with his pretensions as a statesman."

It may be said that the extracts I have given so far are specimens of criticism which is perfectly fair when commenting on men who occupy conspicuous positions in the world of politics; but what will be your judgment on the taste which dictated the following remarks occurring in a retrospect of the career of the late Sir John Shelley?

After informing us that "He gradually shifted his place from below the gangway until, at length, he occupied a seat on the same bench with little Arthur Kinnaird, Mr. C. Forster, Mr. Hankey, Mr. Moffatt, and the select band of *hack Whigs and placemen* who invariably follow their leader into the lobby, no matter what may be the question at issue;" our active friend raises up the following delicious morsel of scandal to tickle the not-too-fastidious palate of his cronies:—"Some five or six years since the honourable Baronet became the defendant, at Marlborough-street Police Court, in certain very disagreeable proceedings taken against him by Mr. G. F. Train, the Yankee speculator;" and, after serving up, by way of entrée, the somewhat gratuitous assumption that "his exclusion from public life *annoyed him very much*, and he could scarcely conceal his mortification at the loss of his seat in the House of Commons; he became, in fact, to *guilty Whigs* a terrible example;" our *Cheltenham* chef de cuisine reserves the following choice *pièce de résistance* for his readers to gloat over—"In his married life Sir John Shelley was not happy."

Now, Mr. Lounger, I remember an old maxim which might, I think, with propriety be recommended to the notice of the *Cheltenham Looker-on*, as applicable to a case like this—I mean, "De mortuis nil nisi bonum." A wholesome maxim which seems to have escaped his memory. I am sure you will agree with me in condemning most strongly such comments as those last quoted, and in deeming them unworthy of any newspaper, even though it profess to be "a note-book of the sayings and doings of social, political, and fashionable life."

I can hardly imagine that the editor of a paper having any such pretensions would condescend to soil his pages with such very dirty padding as the above, invading the privacy of domestic life with not even the delusion of insinuation, but by the coarsest assertion. I am therefore under the necessity of supposing that the article in question must have been contributed by some local "Jeames," anxious to "whisper" the latest bit of gossip into the greedy ear of expectant Mary Ann—a view which I may almost consider myself justified in taking when I read in the same paper the following description of a ball given by "one of the kindest ladies within the circle" (which I suppose regards the *Looker-on* as its centre of attraction):—"The guests, many of whom arrived early, after paying their respects to their fair hostess, who, surrounded by her family and personal friends, bade them heartily welcome, entered at once upon the pleasures of the evening, dancing, when once began (sic), which it was about half-past ten, being continued *uninterruptedly* (sic) until one o'clock, at which hour the doors of the supper-room were thrown open and the company proceeded to take their seats at one of the most elegant banquets ever set out for their refreshment in the assembly-rooms of Cheltenham, the tables being covered with the choicest delicacies, and profusely ornamented, as well, with flowers from the conservatories of Mr. Hodges, as with the most 'dainty devices' in confectionary (sic) which Mr. George's own establishment could produce. This hospitable interlude concluded, dancing was resumed with increased animation, and continued at high pressure until between four and five o'clock yesterday morning, when the party finally separated."

## THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Mr. Watts Phillips's drama, "Lost in London," which has spent about five years on the dusty shelves of the ADELPHI library, was at length brought to light on Saturday evening last. Probably it has not improved by keeping. Public taste in the matter of stage plays is liable to a very considerable change, even in five years, and a piece that would have proved tolerably attractive then might barely succeed in escaping condemnation now. "Lost in London," however, was not a failure; although I do not think it is a very marked success. It is a drama in which the old school of quasi-picturesque improbability struggles with the unsatisfactory realism of the modern Adelphi stage; and it is, perhaps, a compliment to the author and actors, although it certainly is not to the stage management, to say that the picturesque improbability generally gets the best of it. The story is anything but moral in its tone—one act being laid in the house of an adulteress who is living under the protection of her seducer. There is very little plot in the drama, and what little there is, is encumbered by idiotic comic scenes between Miss Woolgar and Mr. Toole, and by an interminable comic song, which would not be tolerated in a music-hall. There is, however, a certain dramatic intensity in the situations that close the first and second acts; and, although the materials which go to make them up are certainly not new, the manner in which they have been introduced to strengthen the piece is creditable to Mr. Watts Phillips's dramatic powers. The piece laboured under a certain disadvantage in the substitution of Mr. H. Neville for Mr. Webster, who is seriously ill. Mr. Neville played the part of the outraged husband with much manly feeling, but it is a part which is more exactly suited to Mr. Webster. Mr. Toole, who had a wretched part as a comic "tiger," played up hill as hard as he could, and even succeeded in raising a laugh here and there. Miss Woolgar spoke in what, I presume, was intended for the Lancashire dialect, but to me it was utterly unintelligible. Mr. Ashley, as the well-born seducer, was easy and gentlemanly; he has greatly improved since he first came to the Adelphi. Miss Neilson played the faithless wife with due pathos; but there is a certain awkward angularity in her action. A little care will enable her to overcome this. The piece is put on the stage with the usual Adelphi incompleteness, and the "guests" in the ball-scene are people to be remembered.

"The Merry Widow" has been revived at the ST. JAMES'S with success. The original of this piece is, I believe, very charming, and even Mr. Leicester Buckingham has not succeeded in entirely uprooting all traces of its natural beauty. Miss Herbert and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Matthews played their original parts in a masterly manner. The principal change in the original cast is the substitution of Miss Carlotta Addison for Miss Josephs in the part of Florence Mildmay. This young lady is generally recognised as a most promising *ingénue*; but there were probably very few in the house on Monday last who were prepared for such a burst of natural pathos as that which Miss Addison gave way to when, as Florence, she hears that the brother whom she thought dead is really alive. It took the house completely by surprise, and was greeted with the rare compliment, at the St. James's, of a double round of applause.

Mr. T. W. Robertson's entertainment at the GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION is called "A Dream in Venice," which serves to bring the different members of Mr. Reed's company pleasantly before the audience in the lines in which they respectively excel. The piece (for it is a piece, after all) is neatly written, and the introduced songs are a pleasant combination of operatic and popular music set to jingling, "jiggy" words. It is exquisitely mounted, and the two principal scenes, the Bridge of the Rialto and the Piazzetta from the Dugano (by Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Telbin respectively), are exquisite pieces of scenic deception. The dresses are gorgeous and fanciful in the extreme. Altogether, the entertainment is a decided success.

"Caste," the new comedy by Mr. Robertson, is in rehearsal at the PRINCE OF WALES's, and will, I believe, be produced on this day fortnight. A three-act drama, translated from the French by Mr. Webster, is to be produced in a week or so at the OLYMPIC. "Never too Late to Mend" is to be revived at the PRINCESS's; and Mr. Coyne's farce of the "Waterwitches" takes the place of "Dulcamara" at the ST. JAMES'S this evening. I hear that a drama by Mr. Falconer is to be produced shortly at the HAYMARKET.

## IRON-CLAD SHIPS OF 1867.

OUR Illustration represents some of the most important vessels that compose the present iron-clad fleet of the country.

The first of these vessels, that on the extreme left of the Engraving, is the Minotaur, of 6621 tons and 1350-horse power, with an armament of 26 guns, and built entirely of iron. She is a sister ship to the Agincourt and Northumberland, both nearly ready for sea, and is destined to be the flagship of the Mediterranean fleet. The above mentioned are the three largest vessels that have been built for the Royal Navy. Next to this ship is the Lord Clyde, of 4067 tons and 1000-horse power, and fights 24 guns. She is iron-plated on a wooden frame, is the latest addition to our fleet, and has proved herself, under all circumstances, a vessel of the first class. The ship in the centre of the Illustration is the Bellerophon, which has created so much interest and engaged so much of the public attention. Designed by Mr. E. J. Reed, the Chief Constructor of the Navy, she is a complete iron ship, and with little doubt the most perfect and formidable ironclad afloat. She is 4270 tons burden, 1000-horse power, and carries 14 guns of the largest calibre. Both under steam and sail her performances have been admirable. In the distance, next her, is the Warrior, whose excellences for speed and beauty are so well known. She is an iron ship, partially clad, of 6109 tons and 1250-horse power, with an armament of 40 guns, and a sister ship to the Black Prince. Next her is the Achilles, whose merits cannot be over-rated; a truly magnificent iron vessel, partially clad, of 6121 tons and 1250-horse power, carrying 26 guns. To the right of her is the Prince Albert, turret-ship, of 2537 tons and 500-horse power, mounting 4 guns, and the first turret-ship built for the Government.

DUTY ON DOGS.—The bill to repeal the duties of assessed taxes on dogs, and to impose in lieu thereof a duty of excise, has been printed. From and after April 5 in England, and May 24 in Scotland, assessed taxes on dogs are to cease. The tax on dogs kept within the year ending April 5, 1867, in England, and May 24 in Scotland, is reduced to 7s. The duty to be paid after these dates is 5s. The duty and licenses are to be under the management of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue. Notices are to be fixed on church doors stating where the licenses can be obtained. The penalty for keeping a dog without a license is £5; and a similar penalty is inflicted for not producing the license when required. The Act is not to apply to dogs under the age of six months.

THE TRADES UNION COMMISSION.—The Commissioners engaged in this inquiry have agreed to the following resolutions:—"That, in addition to the presence of such persons as the Commissioners may deem expedient at any time, the Commissioners will be ready, as a general rule, to admit some one person connected with or representing any trade or society which seems likely to be affected by the inquiry, to be conducted on a given day. That, when printed, a copy of the shorthand writer's notes of the examinations of witnesses each day be sent to every person so attending, and to be supplied as soon as convenient to any member of the press who may apply for it. Mr. G. Potter is summoned as the first witness."

REFORM STATISTICS.—Among important statistics laid before Parliament is a return of the number of male occupiers in each Parliamentary borough at a gross estimated rental of £10 and over, which shows a total for England of 6,28,279, and for Wales of 16,243; the number of persons entitled to vote as £10 occupiers on the register of 1865-6 are— for England, 433,981, and for Wales, 12,503; and the total number of male occupiers in each borough is—for England, 1,307,832, and for Wales, 59,193. Another return shows that the total number of male occupiers assessed at a rateable value of £6 and under £6 is in England 578,193, and in Wales, 38,761. The number assessed at a rateable value above £6 in England is 729,639; and in Wales, 20,432—making a total of 1,367,625 in England and Wales. The electoral returns (1866) do not show the occupations at a rateable value below £4. The number of male occupations at and under £6 rateable value has been arrived at by deducting the male occupations above £6 rateable value from the total number of male occupations, as shown by the gross estimated rental returns. In some instances, when the names of compound householders do not appear on the rate-book the number of tenements is given instead. Under the Small Tenements Rating Act the vestry of any parish is empowered to order that the owners of all tenements of which the yearly rateable value shall not exceed £6 shall be rated instead of the occupiers. In fifty-eight boroughs the Act is in force in all the parishes; in ninety-eight boroughs it has been adopted by some of the parishes only. The following appears in a preliminary note:—"With reference to the estimated annual amount of revenue expected to be derived from taxation in England and Scotland respectively, as agreed upon by the Commissioners at the period of the union, the order states:—"On which estimate of revenue the proportion of members of Parliament was agreed to be fixed at 513 for England and 45 for Scotland." It is to be observed that upon referring to the minutes of Conference published by the Record Commission, it does not appear that the respective number of members of Parliament for the two countries, as agreed upon, was fixed with any relation whatever to the respective amounts of revenue. On the contrary, it appears that the respective amounts of revenue and of public debt in each country were required and were used only for the purpose of ascertaining their several proportions, in order to determine the amount of equivalent to be paid to Scotland for the sums raised by taxation there, applicable to the debts of England contracted before the union. The proportions of the revenues of the two countries at the period of the union were as 97.4 to 2.6, while the number of members actually assigned (513 and 45) was as 92 to 8. If the number of members had been assigned in the proportion of the revenues of the two countries, England having 513 members, Scotland would have had fourteen only."

THE SEIZURE OF THE TORNADO.—The attitude which her Majesty's Government have taken up on this matter is indicated in the correspondence just presented to Parliament. Lord Stanley, in a letter to the British Minister at Madrid, dated March 12, says:—"I do not think it necessary to follow General Calonge through the long argument into which he has entered in justification of the proceedings at Cadiz, or in support of his denial of the right of her Majesty's Government to interfere. The question may be dealt with on much narrower grounds; and, first, as regards the men, their prolonged detention appears to her Majesty's Government to be without any sufficient excuse. Notwithstanding the assertion of General Calonge that the remainder of the crew are kept in Spain 'as witnesses on the part of the captors,' it seems to me impossible to contend that they are not really, by the sentence of December, 1866, against which her Majesty's Government have protested, declared to be prisoners or that they are not detained as such. In no view of the case can her Majesty's Government admit the right to prolong the detention of these men, who have already been under the control of the Spanish authorities ever since August last; and her Majesty's Government, therefore, must again insist on demanding that these persons should now be set free; and they trust that the Government of her Catholic Majesty will see the reasonableness of this demand, and will no longer persist in retaining them under restraint. As regards the ship herself, I have to instruct you to state to the Spanish Government that her Majesty's Government must maintain that the proceedings at Cadiz, terminating with the sentence of Dec. 15, 1866, are absolutely null and void, and that consequently any ulterior proceedings based on them, tending to the condemnation of the vessel, are equally so. Relying on this view of the case, her Majesty's Government would have felt warranted in requiring the release of the vessel, were it not that attempts are being made which, if successful, would set aside the original proceedings altogether, in which case the Spanish Government, no longer relying on the proceedings at Cadiz, may desire to have recourse to another form of procedure more conformable to international law, and in harmony with what the Spanish lawyers affirm to be the laws and institutions of Spain. Her Majesty's Government are content to await, as regards the ship, the result of the appeals now in progress, and to determine their further course of action at a future time. As regards one of the grounds on which it would seem that the claimants may be inclined to delay proceedings, I have to observe that her Majesty's Government regret to say they have no reason to anticipate an early re-establishment of peace between Spain and Chili."



## THE GOVERNMENT REFORM BILL.

SEBINED are the provisions of the bill "further to amend the Laws relating to the Representation of the People in England and Wales," introduced to the House of Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Monday night. The second reading of this bill, which is backed by the names of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Walpole, and Lord Stanley, is fixed for Monday next:—

1. This Act shall be cited for all purposes as "The Representation of the People Act, 1867."
2. This Act shall not apply to Scotland or Ireland, nor to the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge.

## PART I.

## FRANCHISES.

3. Every man shall be entitled to be registered as a voter, and, when registered, to vote for a member or members to serve in Parliament for a borough, who is qualified as follows—that is to say (1) is of full age and not subject to any legal incapacity; and (2) is on the last day of July in any year, and has during the whole of the preceding two years been an inhabitant occupier, as owner or tenant, of any dwelling-house within the borough; and (3) has during the time of such occupation been rated in respect of the premises so occupied by him within the borough, to all rates (if any) made for the relief of the poor in respect of such premises; and (4) has before July 20 in the same year paid all poor rates that have become payable by him in respect of the said premises up to the preceding Jan. 5.

4. Every man shall be entitled to be registered as a voter, and, when registered, to vote for a member or members to serve in Parliament for a county, who is qualified as follows—that is to say (1), is of full age and not subject to any legal incapacity; and (2) is on the last day of July in any year, and has during the twelve months immediately preceding been the occupier, as owner or tenant, of premises of any tenure within the county of the rateable value of £15 or upwards; and (3) has during the time of such occupation been rated in respect to the premises so occupied by him to all rates (if any) made for the relief of the poor in respect of the said premises; and (4) has before July 20 in the same year paid all poor rates that have become payable by him in respect of the said premises up to the preceding Jan. 5.

5. Every man shall be entitled to be registered, and, when registered, to vote at the election of a member or members to serve in Parliament for a county or borough, who is of full age, and not subject to any legal incapacity, and is on the last day of July in any year, and has during the year immediately preceding, been resident in such county or borough, and is possessed of any one or more of the qualifications following—that is to say (1), is, and has been during the period of such residence, a graduate or associate in arts of any university of the United Kingdom; or a male person who has passed at any senior middle-class examination of any university of the United Kingdom; (2) is, and has been during the period aforesaid, an ordained priest or deacon of the Church of England; or (3) is, and has been during the period aforesaid, a minister of any other religious denomination, appointed either alone or with not more than one colleague to the charge of any registered chapel or place of worship, and is, and has been during such period, officiating as the minister thereof; or (4) is, and has been during the period aforesaid, a sergeant-at-law or barrister-at-law in any of the Inns of Court in England, or a certificated pleader or certificated conveyancer; or (5) is, and has been during the period aforesaid, a certificated attorney or solicitor or proctor in England or Wales; or (6) is, and has been during the period aforesaid, a duly qualified medical practitioner registered under the Medical Act, 1858; or (7) is, and has been during the period aforesaid, a schoolmaster holding a certificate from the committee of her Majesty's Council on Education: provided that no person shall be entitled to be registered as a voter or to vote in respect of any of the qualifications mentioned in this section in more than one place.

6. Every man shall be entitled to be registered, and, when registered, to vote at the election of a member or members to serve in Parliament for a county or borough, who is of full age and not subject to any legal incapacity, and is on the last day of July in any year and has during the two years immediately preceding been resident in such county or borough, and is possessed of any one or more of the qualifications following—that is to say, (1) has on the last day of July in any year, and has had during the two years immediately preceding, a balance of not less than £50 deposited in some savings bank in his own sole name and for his own use; or (2) holds on the last day of July in any year, and has held during the two years immediately preceding, in the books of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England or Ireland in his own sole name and for his own use any Parliamentary stocks or funds of the United Kingdom to the amount of not less than £50; or (3) has during the year been charged with a sum of not less than 20s. in the whole by the year for assessed taxes and income tax, or either of such taxes, and has before July 20 in that year paid all such taxes due from him up to the preceding Jan. 5; provided, first, that every person entitled to vote in respect of any of the qualifications mentioned in this section shall on or before July 20 in each year claim to be registered as a voter; secondly, that no person shall be entitled to be registered as a voter or to vote in respect of any of the qualifications mentioned in this section for more than one place.

7. A person registered as a voter for a borough by reason of his having been charged with and paid the requisite amount of assessed taxes and income tax, or either of such taxes, shall not by reason of being so registered lose any right to which he may be entitled (if otherwise duly qualified) to be registered as a voter for the same borough in respect of any franchise involving occupation of premises and payment of rates, and when so registered in respect of such double qualification he shall be entitled to give two votes for the member, or (if there be more than one) for each member to be returned to serve in Parliament for the said borough.

## PART II.

## REDISTRIBUTION OF SEATS.

8. From and after the end of this present Parliament the boroughs of Totnes, Reigate, Great Yarmouth, and Lancaster shall respectively cease to return any member or members to serve in Parliament.

9. From and after the end of this present Parliament each of the boroughs enumerated in Schedule (A) to this Act annexed shall return one member and no more to serve in Parliament.

10. Each of the places named in Schedule (B) to this Act annexed shall be a borough, and shall each return one member to serve in future Parliaments; and, until otherwise directed by Parliament, each such borough shall comprise such places as are specified and described in connection with the name of each such borough in the said Schedule (B).

11. Registers of voters shall be formed in and after the year 1868, notwithstanding the continuance of this present Parliament, for or in respect of the boroughs constituted by this Act, in like manner as if before the passing of this Act they respectively had been boroughs returning members to serve in Parliament.

12. From and after the end of the present Parliament the borough of the Tower Hamlets shall be divided into two divisions, and each division shall in all future Parliaments be a separate borough, returning two members to serve in Parliament. Each of the said divisions, until otherwise directed by Parliament, shall comprise the places mentioned in connection with each such division in Schedule (C) hereto annexed, and shall be called by the name of the Northern and Southern Division of the Tower Hamlets respectively.

13. Registers of voters shall be formed in and after the year 1868, notwithstanding the continuance of this present Parliament, in respect of the divisions of the said borough of the Tower Hamlets constituted under this Act, in like manner as if such divisions had previously to the passing of this Act been separate boroughs returning members to serve in Parliament.

14. From and after the end of the present Parliament each county named in the first column of Schedule (D) to this Act annexed shall be divided into the two divisions named in the second column of the said schedule, and each of such divisions shall consist of the hundreds, tithes, wapentakes, and each of such divisions shall consist of the hundreds of the said schedule. In all future Parliaments there shall be two members to serve for each of the divisions specified in the said second column; and such members shall be chosen in the same manner, and by the same description of voters, and in respect of the same rights of voting, as if each such division were a separate county. All enactments relating to divisions of counties returning members to serve in Parliament shall be deemed to apply to the divisions constituted as aforesaid. Registers of voters shall be formed in and after the year 1868, notwithstanding the continuance of this present Parliament, for or in respect of the divisions of counties constituted by this Act, in like manner as if before the passing of this Act they had respectively been counties returning members to serve in Parliament.

15. In all future Parliaments the University of London shall return one member to serve in Parliament.

16. Every person whose name is for the time being on the register of graduates constituting the convocation of the University of London shall, if of full age, and not subject to any legal incapacity, be entitled to vote in the election of a member to serve in any future Parliament for the said University.

## PART III.

## SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS.—INCIDENTS OF FRANCHISE.

17. Different premises occupied in succession by any person as owner or tenant shall have the same effect in qualifying such person to vote for a county or borough as a continued occupation of the same premises.

18. In a county where premises are in the joint occupation of several persons as owners or tenants, and the aggregate rateable value of such premises is such as would—if divided amongst the several occupiers, so far as the value is concerned—confer on each of them a vote, then each of such joint occupiers shall, if otherwise qualified, and subject to the conditions of this Act, be entitled to be registered as a voter, and, when registered, to vote at an election for the county.

## REGISTRATION OF VOTERS.

19. The following regulations shall be observed with respect to the registration of voters:—

1. The overseers of every parish or township shall make out, or cause to be made out, a list of all persons on whom a right to vote in respect of the occupation of premises is conferred by this Act, in the same manner and subject to the same regulations, as nearly as circumstances admit, in and subject to which the overseers of parishes and townships in boroughs are required by the Registration Acts to make out or cause to be made out a list of all persons entitled to vote for a member or members for a borough in respect of the occupation of premises of a clear yearly value of not less than £10. 2. The claim of any person desirous of being registered as a voter for any county or borough, and hereinafter required to make a claim, shall be made in the form marked 1 in Schedule (E) annexed hereto, or as near thereto as circumstances admit. 3. The claim of a person claiming to be registered in respect of a deposit in a savings bank shall not be received by the overseers unless it have annexed thereto a certificate in the form marked 2 in the said schedule, or as near thereto as circumstances will admit, and is signed, in the case of a post-office savings bank, by some officer authorised to sign the same by the Postmaster-General, and in the case of any other savings bank by two of the trustees or managers of such savings bank or by some officer authorised by them. 4. The claim of any person claiming to be registered in respect of the holding of any Parliamentary stocks or funds of the United Kingdom to an amount of not less than £50 shall not be received by the overseers unless it have annexed thereto a certificate in the form marked 3 in the said schedule, or as near thereto as circumstances admit, and signed by an officer of the governor and company of the Bank of England, or, as the case may require, by an officer of the governor and company of the Bank of Ireland. 5. The claim of any person claiming to be registered in respect of the payment of assessed taxes and income tax, or either of such taxes, shall not be received unless it have annexed thereto a certificate in the form marked 4 in the said schedule, or as near thereto as circumstances admit, and signed by one of the commissioners or collectors acting in relation to the tax in respect of which such certificate is required. 6. The overseers of parishes and townships in counties and boroughs shall annually give notice directing all persons who are required by this Act to make their claim to send in their claims to them, such notice to be given in the same manner, so far as circumstances admit, in which overseers give notice in counties under the law in force at the time of the passing of this Act to persons desirous of being placed on the list of county voters. Upon the receipt of a claim by any such person as aforesaid, having annexed thereto such certificates as aforesaid, the overseers may make all such objections to the claim so made as overseers in counties are empowered to make on receiving claims of voters, but subject thereto shall place the claimant on the list of voters for the parish or township in which the residence of the voter is situated.

20. If any person whose certificate is required under this Act in support of the claim of a person to vote willfully refuses to give such certificate, he shall, on summary conviction, be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5.

21. If any person is guilty of any of the following offences—that is to say (1), willfully gives any certificate required by this Act falsely; (2), forges, counterfeits, or fraudulently alters any such certificate or any signature thereto; (3), knowingly makes use of, in support of a claim to be registered or to vote, any false certificate, or any certificate forged, counterfeited, or altered as aforesaid; such person shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and on being convicted thereof shall be liable to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding two years.

## PLACES FOR ELECTION AND POLLING PLACES.

22. The court for the election of members for each of the divisions mentioned in the second column of the said Schedule (D) shall be held at the places named for that purpose in the fourth column of the same schedule.

23. In every county the Justices of the Peace having jurisdiction therein, assembled at some court of general or quarter sessions not later than the first holden after the dissolution of the present Parliament, shall appoint proper and convenient places for polling in their county, so that there may be a polling-place in every parish or township in which there are not less than 200 resident electors, and a polling place for every two or more adjoining parishes or townships in either of which separately there may be less than 200 resident electors, at some central or convenient point at which as nearly as possible 200 voters from such smaller parishes or townships may most conveniently attend to record their votes; and the places so selected by the Justices as the future polling-places of the county shall forthwith be duly advertised in such manner as the Justices think fit; and the said Justices may from time to time at any court of general or quarter sessions alter such polling-places as they may think expedient; but it shall not be incumbent upon any revising barrister to attend at any polling-place at which less than 500 voters are appointed to poll.

24. At every contested election for any county, unless some building or place belonging to the county is provided by the Justices for that purpose, the Sheriff shall, whenever it is practicable so to do, instead of erecting a booth, hire a building or room for the purpose of taking the poll at the places so appointed by the Justices as aforesaid; and the expense incurred by the said Sheriff in the hire of rooms or erecting booths for polling, shall be paid to him by the Justices for such county out of the county rate. Where in any place there is any room, the expense of maintaining which is payable out of any rates levied in such place, such room may, with the consent of the person or corporation having the control over the same, be used for the purpose of taking the poll at such place.

## ELECTION IN THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

25. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of London shall be the returning officer for such University, and the writ for any election of a member to serve in Parliament for such University shall be directed to such Vice-Chancellor.

26. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of London shall proceed to election in pursuance of any writ to be directed to him, as hereinafter mentioned, within six days after the receipt of such writ, giving three clear days' notice of the day and place of election, exclusive of the day of prolation and the day of election; and the Vice-Chancellor shall, after such election, certify the same, together with such writ, according to the directions thereof.

27. At every contested election of a member or members to serve in Parliament for the University of London the polling shall commence at eight o'clock in the morning of the day next following the day fixed for the election, and may continue for not more than three days, Sunday, Christmas Day, and Good Friday being excluded, but no poll shall be kept open later than four o'clock in the afternoon.

28. At every election of a member to serve in Parliament for the University of London the Vice-Chancellor shall appoint the polling-place, and also shall have power to appoint two or more pro-Vice-Chancellors, any one of whom may receive the votes and decide upon all questions during the absence of such Vice-Chancellor; and such Vice-Chancellor shall have power to appoint poll-clerks and other officers, by one or more of whom the votes may be entered in the poll-book or such number of poll-books as may be judged necessary by such Vice-Chancellor; and such Vice-Chancellor shall, not later than two o'clock in the afternoon of the day next following the close of the poll, openly declare the state of the poll and make proclamation of the member chosen.

## VOTING-PAPERS.

29. Any elector may give his vote by a voting-paper in the same manner and subject to the same conditions in and subject to which an elector of any of the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, or Dublin may give his vote, and all the provisions of the Act of the Session of the 24th and 25th years of the reign of her present Majesty, cap. 53, shall, with the requisite variations, apply accordingly; and, in construing the said Act, "the returning officer" shall be substituted for "the Vice-Chancellor of the University," and the expression "University" shall be taken to mean the county or borough for which the elector votes.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

30. In any borough named in Schedules (B) and (C) to this Act annexed, which is or includes a municipal borough, the Mayor of such municipal borough shall be the returning officer; and in the other cases the returning officer shall be appointed in the same manner as if such places were included amongst the boroughs mentioned in Schedules (C) and (D) of the Act of the 2nd year of his late Majesty William IV., cap. 45, for which no persons are mentioned in such schedules as returning officers.

31. The following persons, that is to say, shall be appointed boundary commissioners for England and Wales, and they shall, immediately after the passing of this Act, name special assistant commissioners, who shall examine the boundaries of the boroughs constituted by this Act (including the divisions of the borough of the Tower Hamlets), and of every other borough in England and Wales. The assistant commissioners so appointed shall give notice, by public advertisement, of their intention to visit such boroughs, and shall appoint a time for receiving the statements of any persons who may be desirous of giving information as to the boundaries or other local circumstances of such boroughs, and shall, by personal inspection and such other means as they shall think necessary, possess themselves of such information as will enable them to make such report and recommendation as hereinafter mentioned. Upon the completion of such examination by the said assistant commissioners, the Inclosure Commissioners shall report to one of her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State whether any enlargement of the boundaries of such boroughs is necessary in order to include within the area thereof the population properly belonging to such boroughs respectively, and in such report shall propose such new boundaries (if any) as in their judgment would effect that object, but such report shall be of no validity until it has been confirmed by Parliament.

32. Every person claiming to vote in respect of any franchise conferred by this Act other than one involving occupation of premises and payment of rates, shall vote at the booth at which he would vote if he were registered as a voter in respect of the house in which he resides.

33. There shall be repealed so much of the seventy-ninth section of the Act of the 6th year of the reign of her present Majesty, cap. 18, as relates to the residence of voters at the time at which they give their votes.

34. Where the owner is rated in respect of a dwelling-house instead of the occupier, the occupier may claim to be rated for the purposes of acquiring the franchise in the same manner and subject to the same conditions in and subject to which an occupier may claim to be registered under the

existing Acts of Parliament for the purpose of acquiring the franchise in respect of the occupation of premises of a clear yearly value of not less than £10, and all the provisions of the said Acts shall apply accordingly; provided that the rates to be paid by such occupier in order to entitle him to the franchise shall be rates calculated on the full rateable value of the premises.

35. Where any occupier of a dwelling-house in respect of which the owner is rated instead of the occupier at the time of the passing of this Act would be entitled to be registered, in pursuance of this Act, at the first registration of Parliamentary voters to be made after the passing of this Act, if he had paid rates for the required period, such occupier shall, notwithstanding he may not have paid such rates, be entitled to be registered, subject to the following conditions:—(1) That he makes a claim to be rated in manner in which such claims are required by the existing law to be made, within one month after the passing of this Act; (2) that he pays all rates due in respect of such house at the time of making his claim, and further pays all rates becoming due in respect of such house between the date of his claim being made and the date of his name being placed on the register of Parliamentary voters, such last-mentioned rates to be calculated on the full rateable value of the premises.

36. Any candidate or other person, either directly or indirectly, corruptly paying any rate on behalf of any voter for the purpose of enabling him to be registered as a voter, or for the purpose of inducing him to vote, shall be guilty of bribery and be punishable accordingly; and any person on whose behalf and with whose privacy any such payment is made shall also be guilty of bribery and punishable accordingly.

37. Whereas by the Act of the 6th year of the reign of Queen Anne, cap. 7, all persons appointed to offices of profit under the Crown, and thereafter duly elected as members of the House of Commons, are required to vacate their seats upon their acceptance of any other office of profit under the Crown, and it is expedient to alter the laws in this respect: be it therefore enacted, that if any person appointed to any office of profit under the Crown, and thereafter duly returned as a member of the House of Commons, accepts, while he continues to be such member, any other office of profit under the Crown (except an office which by law incapacitates the holder thereof from being elected or from voting in Parliament), the acceptance of such other office shall not render the election of such person void, nor shall any writ thereupon issue for a new election.

38. Where separate registers of voters have been directed to be made in any county or borough divided by this Act, if a vacancy take place in the representation of the said county or borough before the summoning of a future Parliament, and after the completion of such separate registers, such last-mentioned registers shall, for the purpose of any election to fill up such vacancy, be deemed together to form the register for the county or borough.

39. Nothing in this Act contained shall affect the rights of persons whose names are for the time being on the register of voters for any county in which the boroughs constituted by this Act are situate to vote in any election for such county in respect of any vacancy that may take place before the summoning of a future Parliament, but after such summoning no person shall be entitled to be registered as a voter or to vote in any election for any such county who would not be entitled to be so registered or to vote in case the boroughs constituted by this Act were before the passing of this Act boroughs returning members to Parliament.

40. The franchises conferred by this Act shall be in addition to and not in substitution for any existing franchises; and, subject to the provisions of this Act, all laws, customs, and enactments now in force conferring any right to vote otherwise relating to the representation of the people in England and Wales shall remain in full force, and shall apply, as nearly as circumstances admit, to any constituency hereby authorised to return a member or members to Parliament as if it had heretofore returned such members to Parliament.

41. All writs to be issued for the election of members to serve in Parliament, and all mandates, precepts, instruments, proceedings, and notices consequent upon such writs, shall be framed and expressed in such manner and form as may be necessary for the carrying of the provisions of this Act into effect.

42. This Act, so far as is consistent with the tenor thereof, shall be construed as one with the enactments for the time being in force relating to the representation of the people.

43. The following terms shall in this Act have the meanings hereinafter assigned to them, unless there is something in the context repugnant to such construction; that is to say—"month" shall mean calendar month; "member" shall include a knight of the shire; "election" shall mean an election of a member or members to serve in Parliament; "county" shall not include a county of a city or county of a town, but shall mean any county, riding, parts or division of a county returning a member or members to serve in Parliament; "borough" shall mean any borough, city, place, or combination of places, not being a county as hereinafter defined, returning a member or members to serve in Parliament; "the Registration Acts" shall mean the Act of the 6th year of the reign of her present Majesty, cap. 18, and the Act of the 28th year of the reign of her present Majesty, cap. 36, and any other Acts or parts of Acts relating to the registration of persons entitled to vote at and proceedings in the election of members to serve in Parliament for England and Wales.

## SCHEDULES.

## SCHEDULE (A).

Boroughs to return one member only in future Parliaments.

Honiton, Thetford, Wells, Evesham, Marlborough, Harwich, Richmond, Lymington, Knarborough, Andover, Leominster, Tewkesbury, Ludlow, Ripon, Huntingdon, Maldon, Cirencester, Bodmin, Great Marlow, Devizes, Hertford, Dorchester, and Lichfield.

## SCHEDULE (B).

Places to be Boroughs to return one member each.

Torquay.—Parishes of Tor Mohun, St. Mary Church, Cockington, Paignton.  
Darlington.—Townships of Darlington, Houghton-le-Skerne, Cockerton.  
Hartlepool.—Municipal borough of Hartlepool, townships of Throston, Stranton, Seaton Carew.  
Gravesend.—Parishes of Gravesend, Milton, Northfleet.  
St. Helens.—Townships of Sutton and Parr, portions of townships of Eccleston and Wincle.  
Burnley.—Townships of Burnley, Habergham Eaves.  
Staleybridge.—Municipal borough of Staleybridge, remaining portion of township of Dukinfield, township of Staley, the district of the local board of health of Mossley.  
Widnesbury.—Parishes of Widnesbury, West Bromwich, Tipton.  
Croydon.—Parish of Croydon, hamlet of Penge.  
Middlesbrough.—Township of Linthorpe, and so much of the townships of Middlesbrough, Ormesby, and Eston as lie to the east of the road leading from Eston towards Yarm.  
Dewsbury.—The townships of Dewsbury, Batley, Southill.  
Barnsley.—The townships of Barnsley, Worsborough, Dodworth, Barugh, Monk Bretton, Ardsley.

## SCHEDULE (C).

Divisions of Borough of Tower Hamlets.

Northern Division.—The parish of Hackney; the parish of St. Matthew, Bethnal-green; the parish of West Ham; the parish of St. Leonard, Shoreditch.  
Southern Division.—The parish of St. George's-in-the-East, the hamlet of Mile-end Old Town, the union of parishes of Poplar, the union of parishes of Stepney, the union of parishes of Whitechapel, the liberty of the Tower of London.

## SCHEDULE (D).

Names of counties to be divided:—South Devon, West Kent, North Lancashire, South Lancashire, Lincoln, Middlesex, South Staffordshire, and East Surrey.

South-East Devon.—The hundreds of Teignbridge, Haytor, Wonford (except such parts thereof as are included in the limits of the city of Exeter by the 2nd and 3rd William IV., cap. 64), Exminster, Clifton, East Budleigh, Axminster, Colyton, Ottery St. Mary, and also the Castle of Exeter.

South-West Devon.—The hundreds of Lifton, Tavistock, Holborough, Plympton, Ermington, Stanborough, Coleridge.

West Kent.—The lathe of Sutton at Honc.

Mid Kent.—Remainder of the Division.

North Lancashire.—The hundreds of Lonsdale, Amounderness, Leyland.

North-East Lancashire.—The hundred of Blackburn.

South-East Lancashire.—Hundred of Salford.

South-West Lancashire.—Hundred of West Derby.

North Lindsey.—Wapentakes of Mauley, Yarborough, Bradley Haveratree, Walsbrough, Corringham, Well, Aslaoue.

South Lindsey.—The remaining parts of Lindsey.

West Middlesex.—Hundreds of Gore, Rithorne, Isleworth, and Spelthorne, with so much of the hundred of Ossulston as lies to the west of the road leading from Edgware, to Hyde Park, and of the north-eastern boundary of Hyde Park, Green Park, and St. James's Park, and Great George-street to Westminster Bridge.

East Middlesex.—The remainder of the county.

South-West Staffordshire.—Hundreds of Cullinstone, Sieston.

East Staffordshire.—Hundred of South Offlow.

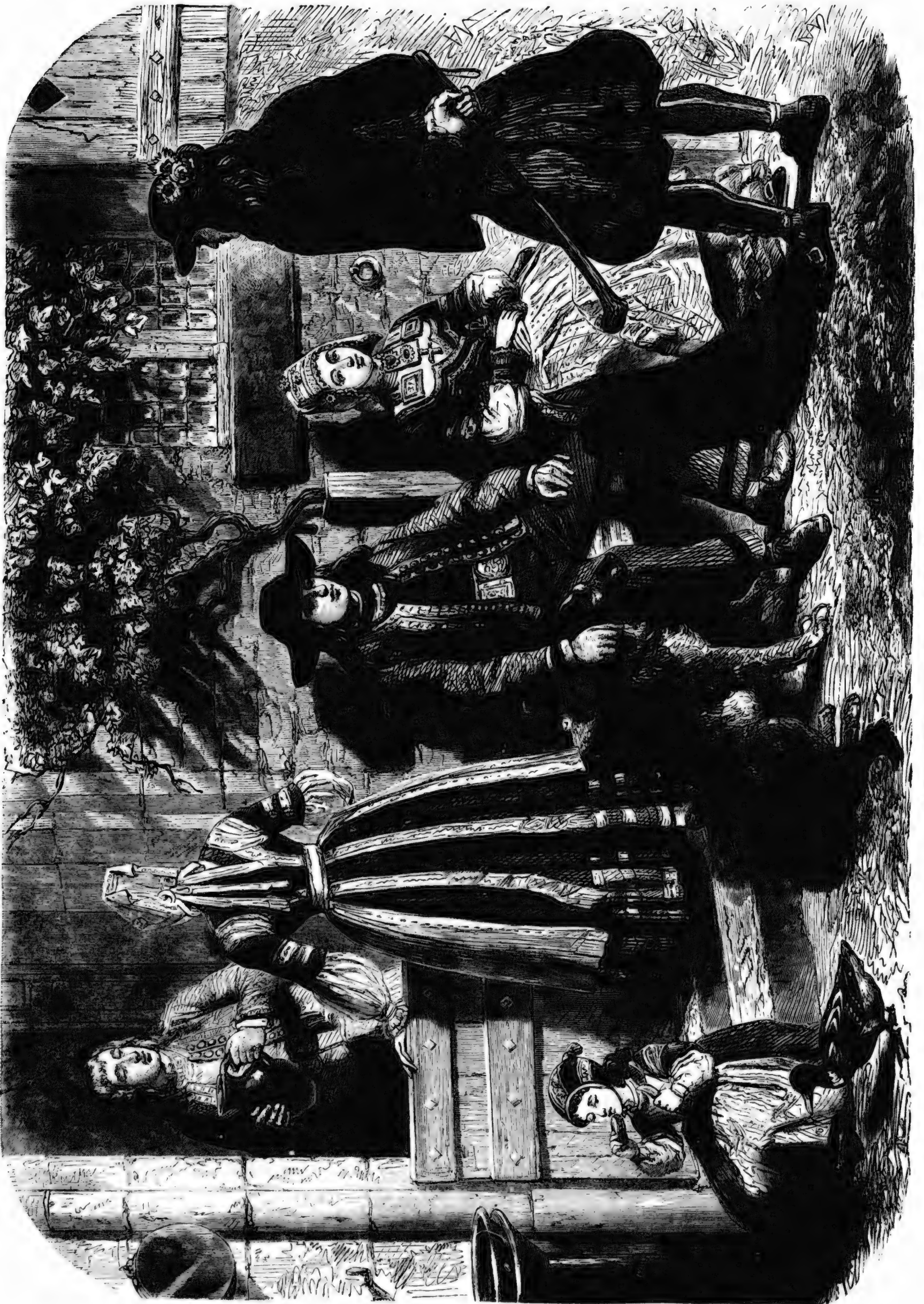
East Surrey.—Hundred of Tandridge, and so much of the hundred of Wallington as includes and lies to the east of the parishes of Croydon and Sanderstead, and so much of the hundred of Brixton as includes and lies to the east of the parishes of Streatham, Clapham, and Lambeth.

Mid Surrey.—The remainder of the present division.

## SCHEDULE (E).

Forms in which the claim to vote on account of the savings-bank and other new qualifications are to be made; the certificate of deposit in savings bank to be signed by two of the trustees or managers, or other appointed by them or by the Postmaster-General; the certificate of ownership of £50 in Government stock by an official of the Bank of England; and the form of certificate of charge of tax by one of the commissioners or collectors.





BRETON COSTUMES, SKETCHED IN LOWER BRITANNY.



## BRETAGNE PEASANTS.

THERE are few places on the earth's surface where change is slower and progress less hopeful than among the Celtic people of Brittany; and yet, even in that strange, wild, fruitful, half-forgotten district, changes do come; and the history of the Bretons, from the time when the insular Britons escaped from the Saxons to Armorica, where the Emperor Constantius Chlorus gave them lands, to the promulgation of the Edict of Nantes, in 1598, is full of interest to those who can read the records of battle, murder, and sudden death, with all the strange accessories of the supernatural which belong to these old chronicles. After the beginning of the seventeenth century Bretagne ceased to be of any separate political importance. The time of dukes, and lords, and suzerains had passed away for ever, and it became a province of France, the traces of its separate existence (except the prevalence of the Breton language, which resembles the Welsh) having been quite obliterated by the arrangements which followed the French Revolution.

At that period the condition of the people was wretched enough, if we regard it from the point of view of modern improvements and the enterprise of an advanced civilisation. "The Bretons," says Mrs. Stothard, in her letters written during a tour in 1818, "dwell in huts generally built of mud; men, pigs, and children live altogether, without distinction, in these cabins of accumulated filth and misery. The people are, indeed, dirty to a loathed excess; and to this may be attributed their unhealthy and even cadaverous aspect. Their manners are as wild and savage as their appearance. . . I could not have supposed it possible that human nature endured an existence so buried in dirt till I came into this province. The common people are apparently in the very lowest state of poverty. In some parts of Brittany the men wear a goatskin dress, and look not unlike Defoe's description of Robinson Crusoe. The furry part of the dress is worn outside; it is made with long sleeves, and falls nearly below the knees. Their long, shaggy hair hangs dishevelled about their shoulders, the head being covered with a broad-flapped straw or heaver hat. Some few of the Bretons go without shoes and stockings, but the generality wear wooden shoes." The Bretons do not resemble in countenance either the Normans or the French, nor have they much of the Welsh character. Many of the very poorest kind wear their clothes till they become so dirty, patched, tattered, and ragged, that you can scarcely trace what the material has originally been, says

Mrs. Stothard; but those who appear tolerably respectable and are dressed decently look florid and healthy. The chestnut abounds in Brittany; there are many large forests composed entirely of that tree; their produce boiled in milk supplying a means of subsistence for the poor during the greater part of the year. The people collect the chestnuts in sacks, and pile them up within their cabins. Several families are even so needy that they seldom taste the luxury of bread; but these are among the children of wretchedness in the extreme degree. The Breton houses (except in the towns) are generally built of mud, without order or convenience. It is absolutely a common thing in Brittany for men, women, children, and animals to sleep together in the same apartment, upon no other resting-place than that of the substantial earth covered with some straw. The Bretons inhabit a fine country, capable of rendering them prosperous and wealthy, but little cultivated by their own exertions; and they owe their chief support to the abundant forests of chestnut and the indigenous productions of their soil. Vast tracts of country appear overgrown with wood, in some parts impenetrably thick and wild; others, where a richly-laden harvest would amply repay the labour of the plough, remain totally neglected. The Breton grovels on from day to day, and from year to year, in the same supine idleness and dirt. If you chance to meet a Breton, and ask him why, when there are so many groves of apple-trees, he does not make cider (for the greater quantity consumed is imported from Normandy), he will tell you his father never did so. If you

say, "Why not grow more corn?" he answers, "I have gathered chestnuts from a boy."

So much for Mrs. Stothard, who does not appear to have visited Ireland before her excursion in Brittany, where she saw so much to surprise and shock her. Her description would, happily, no longer serve as a faithful picture of the Breton people, although so slow is progress among the Celtic people that they are still nearly a century behind the age in many of their habits and customs, as well as in their remarkable costumes. These latter, however—or, at all events, those holiday suits which are the gala attire of the better class of people in the villages, are so picturesque that the artist would have reason to regret a sudden adoption of modern fashions. The flapped hats, decorated with tags and bows; the loose breeches, almost resembling the ancient "trunks"; the embroidered vests and gay colours of the men, are scarcely less remarkable than the marvellously constructed caps, bright ribbons, and quaintly cut bodices of the women, the style of

Landes sits perched above the plain watching his flocks, he may well be counting the time to the day when he will once more take his holiday suit out of that heavy old wooden chest at home.

## "L'ORDONNANCE."

M. MEISSONIER has so frequently exhibited his pictures in this country that we are almost ready to claim him as an artist of our own. Ready, and more than willing, since there are few whose works attract such delighted attention in the galleries where they are hung, and few which have ever so admirably illustrated the difficult question of subordinating realism to truth. The picture from which our Engraving is taken is perhaps one of the best examples of the style of this artist, since it displays all the admirable colouring, the spirit, the free and yet marvellously correct drawing, the dramatic character, and the wonderful handling of texture which have all combined to make Meissonier famous. Every gesture,

every attitude of his figures add some new suggestion to the story he designs to tell; every little accessory and seeming accident of dress or ornament in the scene is in some way devoted to the same end, without any unnatural effort at culmination, and the result is that we have an elaborate and striking picture, which yet leaves with us a sense of ease and almost careless grace. The military straddle of the officer in front of the fire, the manner in which his companion is seated; the obvious sense of bootedness in both of them, even in the midst of their discontent at the order which breaks up their snug enjoyment; the cold, stolid, cruel, and yet live face of the messenger, and the stiff slouch with which he stands in his incongruous Austrian uniform; these, and indeed everything else in the picture, from the deferred puff at the big pipes to the over-set coffee-cup, help to tell a story of which the spectator may make much or little, according to his capacity.

## LONDON CABS. THE COURSE SYSTEM.

THE cab question has once again been brought on the tapis by Mr. Cole's paper before the Society of Arts and Lord Belmore's bill in Parliament. In the former instance it was considered that the regulation fares were too low for the supply to the public of a good and convenient article; and in the latter the lowest hiring fare is proposed to be legalised at one shilling. Whatever be the cause, London cabs are not in the best or cleanest condition; and, perhaps, the unsatisfactory nature of the demands of their drivers for fares is not the least obnoxious of the many evils and annoyances attending their use. The application of the "course system" has often been suggested for the metropolis, but always hitherto deemed impracticable and set aside. Nothing, however, can be more unsatisfactory than the present charge per mile, for no one knows at the erratic rates at which cab horses move along, how far he has gone; nor can he guess any better the distance by observing the time, for the journey is subjected to repeated interruptions and stoppages. Even the citizens do not know the exact distances between station and station, and the result is practically that half-crown fares are pretty commonly charged and paid for at four shillings, and other fares for long distances in the like proportion. The vexation to the passenger is not that the fare is high so much as it is the innate conviction of being overcharged. Very few, indeed, of the classes of persons who ride in cabs would higgie with the poor cabman for a sixpence or a shilling, but most decidedly object to being overcharged; and, taking the fullest and fairest view of the cab question, there can be no doubt that the system of paying by the course is undoubtedly the most satisfactory to the passenger, and, if properly considered, is not at all disadvantageous to "cabby." The difficulties to contend against for applying the system to London has been in the vast size of the metropolis, and the different requirements and conditions of its various component districts. In one the traffic will be enormous and



"L'ORDONNANCE."—(FROM A PICTURE BY MEISSONIER.)

whose head-gear and heavy jewellery is amongst the cherished heirlooms of families that may, for aught we know, have had their first representatives in the days of Alain II. or Pierre de Dreux. It is, perhaps, in the Landes, the vast district of flats of heath and marsh and waste land, that the greatest misery is to be found. Along the coast extends a range of loose, shifting sandy hills, which are now, however, beginning to be rendered stationary by extensive sowings of sea pine. Inside these is a succession of lagoons (etangs), the largest of which is about seven miles in length, and these, too, change in form according to the motion of the surrounding sands. Inland are the plains, with here and there cultivated spots and wretched villages. Very different is the appearance of the south-east portion of the department, which lies on the Adour and its tributary, the Midouze. Here the beautiful and fertile slopes are covered with vines, and the landscape is full of a rich promise, differing greatly from the moory flats where, watching the herds of cattle driven out to pasture, the solitary shepherds walk on stilts 10 ft. or 12 ft high, and so move with long strides and nearly as fast as a trotting horse over the sandy and thorny plains. It is a strange sight to see one of these flap-hatted, loose-trousered Bretons resting himself by sitting on the top of his long crook, his basket on the ground many feet below his hands, which are busily employed in knitting. Such a life may well need a few holidays and rustic festivals to bring back its social circulation; and in these busy but solitary hours, when the shepherd of the



incessant; in another the houses will be scattered, and the travellers few and at considerable intervals; from some of the outlying regions the chances of return fares for the cab going outwards from the centre will be very small; in others the stations can only be reached by crossings of the river and by considerable divergences of roads. All these and other difficulties have been well considered and completely overcome in "The Course System Applied to London," by Mr. J. L. Haddan, C.E., of the hackney carriage department of the metropolitan police. Nothing at all comparable with this system for convenience, justice, and simplicity, has yet been put before the public, and we advise a careful and thoughtful inspection of the map and table published by Mr. Stanford. In doing so, however, it must be borne in mind that this preliminary table has been made out at that higher fare of 20 per cent beyond the present sixpenny mileage, which there seems in many high quarters a prevailing opinion the cabmen should be remunerated at. The proportions, however, may be carried out upon any price of mileage; and the real value of Mr. Haddan's tables is in the care and consideration with which all the peculiar circumstances connected with each particular fare have been closely and fairly regarded.

Briefly to detail the chief features of Mr. Haddan's system, we may say that he adopts the present familiar four-mile radius round Charing-cross. Within this four-mile circle he draws two other smaller circles, and within these he incloses the cross within a special square of about a mile across. Between this and the inner circle the area is divided into eight compartments—one cannot quite properly call them squares—within which the course-fares are reckoned upon a sixpenny mileage. Between the first and second circles the included area is divided into twelve compartments, the course-fares for which are calculated upon a mileage 25 per cent higher; and the area between the outside circle of this region and the four-mile circle is divided into sixteen compartments, the course-fares for which are estimated at a mileage still further advanced by another 25 per cent, or half as high again as that of the innermost region. These compartments are in the two inner regions marked by letters ranging from A to Z, the square allotted to the centre having the characteristic +. The compartments in the outer circular region are numbered in figures from 1 to 16. Beyond this four-mile region a few outlying compartments will be added for such districts as are sufficiently populous and important to require it. Having prepared his map of compartments, Mr. Haddan proceeds to work out the fares into one of those convenient triangular tables in which you look along one edge for the denominative mark of the compartment from which you start, and along another for the one you wish to arrive at, and then running the eye along the lines leading thence find at their point of intersection the required fare set down. Thus, from compartment A to compartment Z would be 1s. 9d.; from W to 14 would be 1s. 6d.; from compartment 8 to compartment 16 would be 4s. By this table, at a glance the actual fare from any one course to another, whether across the circles direct or diagonally, or round within the circular regions, or from one compartment to another, or from point to point over several compartments—in short, every course is distinctly marked down, and can be found by looking along the line opposite to the index marks of the compartments. This table would be painted on the licensing-plate and affixed in some convenient place in or on the cab. We have now only to consider how a passenger would know, without reference to the map of divisions, the letter of the compartment he was going from and the letter of the compartment he was going to. Mr. Haddan settles this difficulty in the most satisfactory way. He labels all the public lamps. All the lamps in compartment A carry A labels; those in B, B labels; and so on up to Z compartment, where all carry Z labels, and from compartment 1 to compartment 16, the lamps in each carry the respective numbers of the compartment. By this admirably simple plan a passenger getting into a cab looks at the mark on the lamp-post, and, doing the like on getting out at his journey's end, looks at the table of fares on the license-plate of the vehicle, and sees at once the proper fare. All disputes are at an end. The lamp-posts and the table adjudicate promptly and without any need of appeal.

With regard to the course system, Mr. Haddan very properly observes that any system of fares to be convenient must be approximate, for it would be an endless source of dispute, besides requiring very accurate means of calculating distances, if a fare were computed according to the exact distance travelled; for instance, one mile and a quarter at 6d. a mile would be 7½d., a very inconvenient sum to pay. The present system also, he then contends, is only approximate, a hirer paying the same fare for one mile five yards as he would for two miles—namely, one shilling. Undoubtedly the "course" unmodified would not be applicable for so large a city as London—the same fare, say from Brixton to Mile-end as from Langham-place to one of the clubs, would clearly not be sufficiently approximate. No system of compensation could work out a fixed fare all over the metropolis; but a good system of compensation fairly and judiciously put into practice, giving it a little elasticity in any direction where required, and tightening in others when circumstances demanded, might organise a table of fares equitable alike to the cabman and to the public. Thus, for example, in the City, where the traffic is impeded, some consideration should be given to the amount of time which would be occupied on the journey as telling against the cabman; on the other hand, the numbers there likely to hire cabs would give the probability of an increased number of hirings, which should tell to the advance of the cabman's earnings. Again, L and M are contiguous compartments, the line of separation, however, being the River Thames; and one including the Fenchurch-street and the other the Bricklayers' Arms station. L and G are also contiguous compartments, G including St. Paul's. Now, it is obvious that a passenger could be conveyed nearly direct from Fenchurch street to the cathedral; but to go from Fenchurch station to the Bricklayers' Arms he would have to be conveyed round by London Bridge. Compartments 5 and 6 are likewise separated by the Thames, and from Limehouse to Rotherhithe would be a short mile if there were any convenient bridge across the river. To get now from the one to the other the cabman would have to drive over London Bridge, and make a long detour. It would be obviously unfair, then, to make the fare the same between compartments 5 and 6 as between compartments 5 and 4. Looking at Mr. Haddan's table of fares, it will be seen that he has made provisions for all such circumstances, the fare from 5 to 6 being set at 2s. 3d., whilst that from 3 to 4 is set at 1s. 6d. From L to G is set down at 1s. 3d., whilst from L to M is given at 1s. 9d., although both G and M are contiguous to L. The same system of give and take is also carried out with regard to distances and nature of road, and the amount of traffic along it; so that while there is no absolute rule of distance or of exact charge for mileage, and the determination has the appearance of being somewhat arbitrary, yet upon examination it will be found that the fare has been fixed upon definite and obvious bases. The most important advantages of Mr. Haddan's plan are that, whilst it is perfectly equitable for both passenger and cabman, it is preventive of all chance of driver going a roundabout way by making it his interest to drive as direct as possible; and as it also states the exact legal fare from any point to another, it does not involve calculations and judgments of distances, and the consequent inevitable disputes incident upon the natural differences of the estimate of distance made by the hirer and hired. As Mr. Haddan very truly observes, "a foreigner or stranger must of necessity go to the wall under these circumstances;" and as to any mechanical index attached to the cab to record automatically the distance travelled, "it would never be in working order a week, it being to the driver's interest to derange it as quickly as possible. Under Mr. Haddan's plan a foreigner totally ignorant of our language could still make out the letters of the districts, and find the fare on the table. As no two persons may have the same idea as to the rate at which cabmen should be remunerated, no critical objections can be taken to Mr. Haddan's scale of fares, and especially as he admits that in the present divergence of opinions it would be impossible for him to settle what the exact fares should be, but in computing the table he has acted on the opinion that the present rates are too low, and computed

pretty generally at an advance of 30 per cent. Nothing in the course system would prevent special engagements by the mile or by the hour; but, looking on Mr. Haddan's plan in every aspect, nothing yet propounded will bear any comparison, either in the amount of convenience to the public or equity to all parties, with it, and we sincerely hope it may and will receive that amount of consideration and attention in the proper quarter which it most decidedly merits.

#### OPERA AND CONCERTS.

MR. GYE has issued his programme for the coming season. The company will for the most part be the same as that of last year. The only leading singer whose absence will be remarked is M. Faure, and, seeing that M. Faure had had the part of Rodrigue in "Don Carlos" assigned to him at the French Opera, his loss was unavoidable. In the way of new operas we are promised "Don Carlos" and "Romeo and Juliet"—that is to say, Verdi's latest work, followed by Gounod's latest work. The company, in short, will be last year's company without M. Faure, and with the addition of several singers more or less known; while the new works produced will be the very two that every amateur in Europe will be eager to hear.

Mlle. Patti will sustain the principal character in "Romeo and Juliet," while the chief part in "Don Carlos" will be assigned to Mlle. Lucca. We may safely say beforehand that neither M. Gounod's work, at the Théâtre Lyrique, nor Signor Verdi's, at the Opéra Français, will be performed with anything like such "casts" as are reserved for them at the Royal Italian Opera. Signor Mario will play Romeo to Mlle. Patti's Juliet; while, in the part of Elizabeth of Valois, Mlle. Lucca will be supported by Signor Naudin as Don Carlos, and Signor Graziani as Don Rodrigue. Here we must not forget to mention that Mlle. Patti will undertake, for the first time in England, the part of Elvira in the "Puritani." Mme. Vilda, who made so favourable an impression last season as Norma, and in other tragic parts, will appear for the first time as Anna in "Don Giovanni" and as Leonora in "Fidelio." Mme. Lemmens-Sherrington will again be heard in the music of Adalgisa, and of Susannah in "The Marriage of Figaro." The Countess in this last-named opera will be represented for the first time by Mlle. Fricki.

Among the tenors we find Signor Mario, Signor Fancelli, Signor Naudin, and Signor Neri-Baraldi; to say nothing of a new-comer, Signor Marino, who, however, is set down for nothing more important than the part of Paris in "Romeo and Juliet." Signor Mario is announced to appear (for the first time these six years) as Ottavio in "Don Giovanni." Two new baritones, Signor Cotogni and M. Petit, are engaged. Signor Cotogni's merit will be severely tested in the dissimilar parts of Figaro ("Barber of Seville") and Don Giovanni; of Fernando in "La Gazza Ladra," and the Duke in "Lucrezia Borgia." He is, moreover, to appear as Mercutio in Gounod's new opera. M. Petit's great character is known to be that of Mephistopheles in M. Gounod's "Faust;" but those of Figaro ("Marriage of Figaro"), of Peter the Great ("L'Etoile du Nord"), of Philip II. ("Don Carlos"), and of Capulet ("Romeo and Juliet") are also allotted to him. We must add that Signor Ronconi and Signor Graziani will be heard in several of their favourite parts, and that the former will appear for the first time as Bartholo in the "Barber of Seville." It has already been stated that Signor Graziani will be the London representative of Rodrigue in Verdi's "Don Carlos." Mlle. Leonora Nau, a new contralto, will play in both of the new operas, and in each the part of a page. The director and conductor of the music will, as heretofore, be Mr. Costa; and Mr. Augustus Harris will continue to be the stage-manager. The first performance of the season is fixed for April 2.

The Popular Concert of last Monday was for the benefit of Mme. Arabella Goddard. The pianoforte piece was Beethoven's sonata in B flat—the celebrated op. 106—a work which Mme. Goddard had already played before small audiences composed of musicians and professed dilettanti, but which previously had never been performed by any pianist at a concert of a thoroughly popular character. Herr Joachim was the violinist, and the concert terminated with the universally admired Kreutzer sonata, in which Herr Joachim and Mme. Goddard were heard together.

Handel's great oratorio, "Israel in Egypt," will be given at Exeter Hall, on Wednesday, the 27th, by the National Choral Society, with a band and chorus of 700 performers—conductor, Mr. G. W. Martin.

COMPOSITION OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—One of the "Essays on Reform," which have been just published in a volume by Messrs. Macmillan, is by Mr. Craycroft, who sets himself to prove by figures and names that the House of Commons represents the upper classes of society, if not exclusively, at least in overwhelming proportion. The landowners, for example, seat directly 256 county members; but of the borough members, 246 out of 396 are believed to be also territorialists, either by actual ownership of land in considerable blocks, or by dependence on and connection with those who do own them. According to Dod, in the Parliament of August, 1865, there were returned 71 baronets, 11 elder sons of baronets, 19 younger sons of baronets, and 8 grandsons of baronets; a total for the Baronetage alone of 110. There were also 37 peers, or elder sons of peers, 64 younger sons of peers, and 15 grandsons of peers: a total of 116 members of Parliament for the Peerage, and for the Peerage and Baronetage together a total of 226. Besides these there are 100 commoners sitting in Parliament who are connected with the Peerage by marriage or descent. The aristocratic class or element in the House of Commons has therefore a grand total of at least 326 members. And unquestionably this number would be found, if an exhaustive search were made among other sources of information, to be below the mark. When it is remembered that in the fullest House on record—namely, on April 28, 1866—those who voted in the majority had only 320 votes, the number 326, as the symbol of caste in the House of Commons, is significant.

THE LATE GALE.—The violence of the gale of Sunday and Monday has been severely felt on different parts of the coast. The barque Centurion, of South Shields, was wrecked off Saltfleet, on the Lincolnshire coast, and those on board, eighteen in number, were saved by the Theddlethorpe life-boat. The brig Secret, of Guernsey, was seen at anchor near Mount Penzance in a very dangerous position, with a signal of distress flying, when the life-boat of the Royal National Life-boat Institution went off and put a man on board, who slipped the anchors of the vessel and brought her safely into harbour. The schooner Gipsy, from Llanelli for Southampton, went on shore on the beach on Sunday, between Penzance and St. Michael's Mount; her crew were saved by the rocket apparatus. The schooner Devon, of Padstow, during the heavy gale of Sunday was seen at anchor in Polkerris Bay, when the life-boat of the Royal National Life-boat Institution went off and brought the crew ashore; but, the wind having moderated, on the following day they returned to their vessel, which has fortunately ridden out the gale. The schooner Mary Lewis, of Aberystwyth, parted her cables and drifted all day on the sandbank near St. Ives Pier; the crew were saved by the life-boat of the Royal National Life-boat Institution. The Donna Nook life-boat saved the crew of four men of the schooner Squire, of Yarmouth, from an inevitable death. The vessel had sunk and the crew were taken from their small boat, which was already half filled with water. The Selsey life-boat went out and rescued the crew of six men of the brigantine Sarah Ann, which was wrecked off the Sussex coast.

STRIKE OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.—A novel strike—a strike among the agricultural labourers—has just occurred in the north-west portion of Buckinghamshire. During the past winter, it appears, the labourers have been in receipt of wages amounting to only 9s. and 10s. per week, which, with bread at 8d. per 4lb. loaf, coal 1s. 1d. per cwt., and other necessities of life proportionately high, they considered to be very insufficient. The fact that the farm labourers at Brackley have just enjoyed an advance of 1s., and in some cases of 2s., per week, seems to have increased the discontent of their brethren in Buckinghamshire; and, accordingly, a movement was instituted, the initiative being taken at the village of Gawcott, near Buckingham, and a formal demand was made for an advance of 2s. per week, and of 1s. for Sunday in all cases where their services were required on that day. The farmers, generally, refused to give this rate of wages, and, it is stated, in one or two cases the labourers were summarily dismissed. Be this as it may, it is a fact that in that village alone twenty-eight labourers, a day or two ago, "struck," refusing to return to their work for less than the above-mentioned sum. The movement appears to have taken even an organised form, for a strike committee has been formed, and a fund opened, from which assistance has already been rendered to the men who were dismissed, and a secretary and treasurer appointed. The committee have published a manifesto, explaining the circumstances; and the treasurer, Mr. Thomas Baker, jun., of Bridge-street, Buckingham, has appealed to the public for subscriptions to keep on the movement, "so that the men may not starve while endeavouring to obtain the modest sum of 2s. a day for their labour." A similar advance of wages is intended to be demanded in other villages in the district.

#### RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR EDUCATION.

ON Tuesday evening the fifty-third annual meeting of the East London Auxiliary Sunday School Union was held at the Beaumont Institution, Mile-end—the Duke of Argyll presiding. The noble chairman, in opening the proceedings, said he thought such institutions might well hold annual meetings which, he considered, should be presided over by those who had worked in the cause they had so much at heart. He saw good reason, however, why others from a different sphere should occasionally preside at those gatherings, if doing so would awaken public interest in the institutions; and, for his part, having inquired into the working of this establishment and found that it was totally unsectarian, he readily undertook the duty of presiding. He then spoke regarding the place which Sunday schools must occupy in the future education of the country. He thought it could not be said that England had any system of education at all as a system, and he contrasted the establishment of a system in Scotland with the want of a system in England. It was well known (he said) that at the time of the Reformation in Scotland it was laid down as a principle with which the Parliament should deal that care should be taken for the religious and secular education of the young. Schools were accordingly established in connection with the Established Church of Scotland, and the catechisms of the Church were taught in those schools; but it was early laid down that the children of other churches might be secularly educated in those schools without the religious instruction. In such a system as that Sunday schools would form an unimportant part of the national education; but the case of England was different. In England, at the time of the Reformation, no system of education, as a system, was started or founded by the Reformers, and there was no national system of education until, comparatively speaking, some few years ago. The education of the young, both secular and religious, was left to the Churches; and it must be confessed, however valuable that education was, it had not been able to overtake the population, and it had proved inadequate to meet the great wants of the people, even though it was supported by large donations from the public funds. The time, he felt, was coming when a more truly national system would be pressed for by the people of the country, and he believed that they would look for the adoption of the system of the United States of America, where education was supported out of the public rates. If our Parliament should adopt this system, education would more or less be disconnected with the religious bodies, and then the Sunday-school work would never cease to have its importance in the State. The common school system in the United States of America he did not regard, as some regarded it, as one which did harm, but, on the contrary, he regarded it as one which did immense good, and facilitated the religious instruction of the scholars. Though he was in favour of a system of education in connection with denominations, as far as it could be carried out, yet he could not think that a purely secular education on week days was antagonistic to religious teaching. He had no fear of any such teaching upon the people, and he urged that if this system should be established in this country the Churches should set their shoulders to the wheel to supplement that education by dogmatic teaching. He considered it the especial duty—a duty which was becoming more and more incumbent upon every Christian congregation—to establish more efficient Sunday schools in connection with their church, as he believed religious training could not be too early impressed upon the mind of the young, and they could not too early impress upon them that magnificent precept given in the opening of the Church of Scotland catechism, "The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him for ever." The noble Duke, who was greatly cheered, then called upon the hon. secretary, Mr. Comyn, to read the report. This was very lengthy and very interesting. It pointed out the great labour undertaken in dealing with the poverty-stricken children of the east of London, and showed that the efforts of self-sacrificing men and women engaged in this work are much cramped by want of funds. Several speeches were made, the report was adopted, and the meeting closed with prayer.

GLASGOW was on Saturday morning last the scene of a disastrous fire, which originated on Lancelotti-quay, and before it could be extinguished caused damage to the amount of £12,000 and destroyed the homes of thirty-two families.

CARDINAL CULLEN ON FENIANISM.—Cardinal Cullen has issued a pastoral, the theme of which is St. Patrick. His Eminence refers to the subject of Fenianism, and says:—"I have learned on the best authority that the rural population, the bone and sinew of the country, could not be induced to join in any attempt to resist authority or violate the law. This feeling, I believe, is prevalent in every part of the kingdom. Though the people sorely feel their grievances, they are determined not to have any recourse to revolution, violence, or bloodshed in order to obtain redress." He praises the lenity and moderation of the Government, the humanity of the police, the military, and all who were actively engaged in preserving the public peace. "All," says his Eminence, "seem to have been animated with a most praiseworthy spirit of humanity."

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES HARDY.—Mr. Charles Hardy, second son of the late Mr. John Hardy, M.P. for Bradford, and brother to Mr. John Hardy, M.P., and Mr. Gathorne Hardy, M.P., died on Saturday evening, at his residence, Chilham Castle, Kent. Mr. Hardy was the chief partner in the Low Moor Company. He was an able and active West Riding magistrate, and a gentleman of large benevolence and generous sympathies, especially as manifested amongst his poorer neighbours at Low Moor. Until recently he resided at Oseley House. He was the president of the Bradford Free Church Building Society, and his name has for many years been conspicuously identified with every church-building effort in the district around Bradford. Indeed, independently of their share in other efforts, he and his family were no doubt the chief contributors to the building of not fewer than four churches immediately around Low Moor. Mr. Hardy was little more than fifty years of age, and leaves a large family.

REPRESENTATION OF SCOTLAND.—The roll of the Parliament of Scotland of 1702 shows that that Parliament then consisted of 119 members—viz. 38 nobility, 38 commissioners from the barons of the 23 shires, and 43 commissioners for the 43 burghs. In the course of the treaty for the Union the Commissioners for England proposed that there should be 38 representatives for Scotland in the House of Commons of Great Britain, but the commissioners for Scotland insisted upon a greater number, and it was agreed that there should be 45, the number for England being 513. Of the net annual revenue from taxation on the average of the first three years after the Union England contributed 97.6 per cent, and Scotland 2.4 per cent; in the three financial years ending with March, 1866, the average annual proportions were 85.7 per cent for England, and 14.3 for Scotland, the increase in the 156 years being 834 per cent in England, and 6509 per cent in Scotland. It is impossible accurately to ascertain the amount of Customs' duties falling upon each country; but a Treasury return apportioned as follows the revenue derived from taxation on the average of three years, 1864-6—viz., England, 78.8 per cent; Scotland, 11.9 per cent; Ireland, 9.3 per cent. The Reform Act of 1832 took eight members from the representation of England and gave them to Scotland, and five also to Ireland, making the representation 500 for England, 53 for Scotland, 105 for Ireland. Had the apportionment been according to the contributions to the revenue at the time of the Reform Act, the numbers would have been 547 for England, 58 for Scotland, 53 for Ireland. An apportionment according to the amount of taxation on the average of the three years 1864-6 would give 519 members to England, 78 to Scotland, 61 to Ireland.

HOW I GOT TO HEAR THE GREAT DEBATE.—Mr. J. Hayward gives the following account of his efforts to gain admission to the House of Commons on Monday evening:—"Armed with a member's order, I reached the entrance to Westminster Hall at a quarter to six, where, dotted over with a few genuine-order holders, I found a motley group of the great unemployed, who, for a consideration, had come to secure places for their patrons. Some had been there since twelve at night, and were dozing against the door—dozing, that is, as much as their companions would let them, for a lively fire of chaff, mingled with rough play, disturbed their slumbers. As the hour of six approached the group closed up to the door. There were over one hundred there, and as but the first seventy could obtain places, all prepared for a rush. To the minute, open flew the wide doors. Wide as they were, there was a terrible squeeze for a minute, and then, as if with a sudden spasm, the whole mass was suddenly in the freedom of the grand old hall of Westminster. This hall is 80 yards long; at the extremity is a broad flight of steps, then a sharp turn to the left, then more steps lead into St. Stephen's Hall, paved with tiles as slippery as glass, along the sides of which are the seats to be occupied by those waiting. This was the course. The early comers had somewhat the start; but we were pretty much in a lump, and, on the whole, the race was tolerably fair. I am not much of a runner, and, being rather in the rear, I concluded that I should certainly be among the unlucky forty; but fortune favours the brave, so off I started. The pace soon began to tell, and some, being broken-winded hobblers, rapidly fell into the rear; the foremost of a group running beautifully ahead of me stumbled over a stray watering-pot; those behind toppled over him into its contents, and were out of the race. I passed them, venting their benedictions on the watering-pot, the water, and their unlucky fate. I felt my chance increasing; the stairs before me were already dotted with prostrate figures, who in the dim light had judged the distance badly, and who, pressed on by those behind, were vainly endeavouring to recover their footing. Avoiding them as best I could, I cautiously prepared for the rush into the slippery hall; and here I nearly came to grief. The man just before me fell heavily the moment his feet touched the tiles; in an instant three more were across him, and the passage was completely barred. Some one behind me seized my coat-tails, and I gave up all for lost. However, shaking him off with a vigorous effort, I cleared the obstacle with a bound, slid along the pavement, grasped the statue of Lord Somers in time to avoid falling, and dropped into the seat. The man who had laid hold of my coat was a wiry old customer, and swung into the seat next me. I was glad to hear his voice of triumph saying, 'All right, my Lord.' All right we were; for we were only twenty from the end. My faithful deputy presently came in, and I returned to my breakfast, pleased with my success."



at the Royal Hospital.—W. HOLDSWORTH, Worcester.  
 Keston, labourer.



**MESSRS. GABRIEL'S PAMPHLET** on PAINLESS DENTISTRY, post-free 4 stamps, explains the system in which they are so eminently successful, supplying Artificial Teeth without Springs, painlessly. Messrs. Gabriel, 54, Harley-street, W.; and 54, Ludgate-hill, London; and 34, Duke-street, Liverpool.

**WHITE and SOUND TEETH** are indispensable to personal attraction, and to health and longevity by the proper mastication of food. ROWLANDS' OXYGEN or PEARL DENTIFRICE, preserves and imparts a pearl-like whiteness to the teeth, eradicates tartar and spots of incipient decay, strengthens the gums, and gives a pleasing fragrance to the breath. Price 2s. 6d. per box. Sold by Chemists and Perfumers. Ask for ROWLANDS' OXYGEN.

**RIMMEL'S IHLANG-IHLANG**, the Flower of Florida, a delicious perfume, from 2s. 6d. RIMMEL'S Faint DYE-TABLE FOUNTAIN, to replace the Rose-water Salver, 21 10s. 9d. Strand; 118, Regent-st.; 24, Cornhill, London.

**PESTACHIO-NUT TOILET POWDER** imparts to the skin a natural whiteness, youthful delicacy, and softness attainable by no other means. 2s. 6d. per box. Sold everywhere. — FINESS and LUBIN, 2, New Bond-street, London.

**FRAGRANT SOAP.**—The celebrated UNITED SERVICE TABLET is famed for its delightful fragrance and beneficial effect on the skin. Manufactured by J. C. and J. FIELD, Patents of the Self-fitting Candles. Sold by Chemists, Oil and Italian Warehousemen, and others. Use no other. See name on each tablet.

**BENSON'S WATCHES and CLOCKS.** By Special Appointment to H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES. Price Medal, London, Class 31, Dublin, Class 10. WATCHES—Chronometers, Keyless, Repeater, Chronograph, &c. CLOCKS—For Dining and Drawing Rooms, Carriages, Churches, &c.

**JEWELLERY.**—Specialties in Monograms, Crystals, Diamonds, and Fine Gold. PLATE, AND WORKS OF ART in Bronze, by leading Artists. PRICES AND DESCRIPTIONS—See Illustrated Pamphlet, post-free.

Watches and Clocks sent to all parts of the World. J. W. Benson, 35, Old Broad-street. Steam-Factory and City Show-rooms, 55 and 60, Ludgate-hill. Paris Exhibition, 1867, English Section, Class 23.

**GARDNERS' LAMPS.** GARDNERS' CHANDELIER. GARDNERS' DINING SERVICES. GARDNERS' DRAWING-ROOM CLOCKS. GARDNERS' TABLE GLASS. GARDNERS' PLATED GOODS.

**GARDNERS', 453 and 454, STRAND.** Four Doors from Trafalgar-square. Illustrated Catalogue post-free.

**SLACKS' SILVER ELECTRO-PLATE** is as good for wear as real silver. Table Forks (Fiddle Pattern—Per doz.) £1 10 0 and 12 0. Dessert ditto .. .. . 1 0 0 and 1 10 0. Table Spoons .. .. . 1 10 0 and 1 15 0. Dessert ditto .. .. . 0 10 0 and 0 12 0. Tea Spoons .. .. . 0 12 0 and 0 15 0. Richard and John Slack, 338, Strand, London.

**THE ESTERHAZY JEWELS.**—Mr. BOORE begs to announce that these Jewels WILL BE ON VIEW at the GALLERY of the SOCIETY OF FEMALE ARTISTS, No. 9, Conduit-street, Regent-street (by kind permission of the Committee), on MONDAY, the 25th inst., and Two following Days, from Ten to Five. 24, Strand, March 30.

**PIANOFORTES.—MOORE and MOORE** LIST on HIRE the following PIANOFORTES, for three years, whole or half, and without any further charge whatever, the pianoforte becoming the property of the hirer:—Pianoforte, 24 guineas per quarter; Pianoforte, 3 guineas per quarter; Cottage Piano, 25 10s. per quarter; Drawing-room Model Cottage, 25 10s. per quarter; Cottage Grand, 5 guineas per quarter; Cottage Grand, 6 guineas per quarter. These pianofortes are warranted, and of the best manufacture. Extensive Ware-rooms, 104 and 106, BISHOPSGATE-STREET, E.C. Jury award, International Exhibition, 1863; Honourable Mention for good and cheap Pianos to Moore and Moore.

**MOORE and MOORE'S Three-years' System** applies to HARMONIUMS, at 2 gu., 3 gu., 4 gu., and 5 gu., per quarter;—104 and 106, Bishopsgate-street, E.C.

**MOORE and MOORE** extend their Three-years' System of Hire to Pianos to all parts of the United Kingdom, carriage-free.—104 and 106, Bishopsgate-street, E.C.

**PIANOFORTES, TWENTY-ONE** GUINIAS.—WILLIAM SPRAGUE is manufacturing a very elegant Pianoforte, 4½ octave, unrivalled in tone and touch, and warranted to stand in any climate. HARMONIUMS of every description, 5 gu. to 60 gu. W. Sprague, 7, Finsbury-pavement. Established, 1837.

**CHOCOLAT-MENIER, for Breakfast,**

**CHOCOLAT-MENIER, for Eating.**

**CHOCOLAT-MENIER, Pure, wholesome, and delicious.** Consumption exceeds 5,000,000lb.

**MENIER'S FRENCH CHOCOLATE** Warehouse, 25, Henrietta-st., Strand, London. Sold everywhere.

**BREAKFAST.—EPPS'S COCOA** (more commonly called Epps's Homoeopathic Cocoa, as being prepared and introduced by Jas. Epps, the Homoeopathic Chemist first established in England). The very agreeable character of this preparation has rendered it a general favourite. For breakfast, no other beverage is equally invigorating and sustaining.

Medals—London, 1851 and 1863; New York, Paris, and Dublin.

**FRY'S CHOCOLATE FOR EATING** is prepared with scrupulous regard to purity, and being exceedingly wholesome, is much valued for CHILDREN, WITH WHOM IT IS A UNIVERSAL FAVOURITE.

**KINAHAN'S LL WHISKY, DUBLIN** EXHIBITION, 1863.—This celebrated Old Irish Whisky gained the Dublin Prize Medal. It is pure, mild, mellow, delicious, and very wholesome. Sold in bottles, 2s. 6d. each, at the principal houses in London; by the agents in the principal towns in England; or wholesale, at 6, Great Windmill-street, London, W.—Observe the red seal, plain label, and branded cork, "Kinahan's LL Whisky."

**ALLSOPP'S PALE and BURTON ALES.** The above Ales are now being supplied in the finest condition in Bottles and in Casks, by FINDLATER, MACKIE, TODD, and CO., at their New London Bridge Store, London Bridge, S.E.

**BROWN and POLSON'S CORN FLOUR,** for Children's Diet.

PURVEYORS TO H.R.H. THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

**GLENFIELD PATENT STARCH,** EXCLUSIVELY USED IN THE ROYAL LAUNDRY, and awarded the Prize Medal.

**DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD-LIVER OIL.** Dr. EDWARD SMITH, F.R.S., Medical Officer to the Poor-Law Board, in his work "On Consumption," writes:—"We think it a great advantage that there is one kind of Cod-Liver Oil which is universally admitted to be genuine—the Light-Brown Oil supplied by Dr. De Jongh. It has long been our practice, when prescribing the Oil, to recommend this kind, since, amidst so much variety and uncertainty, we have confidence in its genuineness." Sold only in capped bottles, 2s. 6d., 1s. 9d., and 1s., by Dr. De Jongh's Agents, ANSAR, HARFORD, and CO., 77, Strand, London; and Chemists.

**MRS. JOHNSON'S AMERICAN SOOTHING SYRUP** for Children Cutting their Teeth, which has been held in such high estimation for so many years, for relieving children when suffering from painful dentition, still continued to be prepared according to Mrs. Johnson's original recipe, and with the same success, by MRS. JOHNSON and SONS, 55, Farringdon-street, whose name and address are engraved on the stamp. Full directions are inclosed with each bottle. Price 2s. 9d. Be sure to ask for "Mrs. Johnson's Soothing Syrup."

**SPRING FASHIONS for 1867.** FIRST ARRIVAL of NOVELTIES for this Season. An immense variety of Jackets and Mantles, both in Silk and Velvet, are now ready for inspection. PETER ROBINSON'S, 103 to 108, Oxford-street. The Illustrated Manual of Fashions gratis and post-free.

**SPECIAL SALE OF SILKS.** PETER ROBINSON invites special attention to several cases of Plain and Fancy Silks, purchased in Paris and Lyons during the recent monetary crisis, the whole of which are no longer sold.

**CASE NO. 1.** comprises a beautiful collection of richly-coloured Striped Glaces, particularly suitable for Young Ladies. Prices, at from 2½ gu. to 3 gu. the Full Dress of 14 yards; or any length will be cut.

**CASE NO. 2.** comprises some beautiful specimens of Châné Silks, in great variety of Design and Colouring, and amongst which will be found Dress specially suitable for Evening Wear and the coming Spring Costume. Prices, at from 2½ gu. to 4 gu. the extra Robe of 16 yards.

**CASE NO. 3.** comprises 300 pieces of very rich Corded and Plain Silks, amongst which will be found a splendid assortment of Light Colours for Evening Wear, the whole of which will be found decidedly cheap.

**NEW SILKS FOR 1867.** Every description of Plain and Fancy Silks, Moire Antiques, and Satins of the Newest Designs and Colouring, produced expressly for this season, are now ready for inspection. Ladies who cannot make a personal inspection will be supplied with Patterns post-free on application. Peter Robinson's, 103 to 108, Oxford-street, W.

Now ready, post-free, Patterns of the **NEW SPRING DRESSES**, in Castilian, Mexican, Nankin, and Camel Cloth, from 12s. 6d. to 21s. the Full Dress. Also some 300 Pieces of last season's at reduced prices. PETER ROBINSON, 103 to 108, Oxford-street, W.

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**THE UNIVERSAL MOURNING WAREHOUSE.** PETER ROBINSON'S, of Regent-street. The most economical and the largest in Europe.

**FAMILY MOURNING.** made up and trimmed in the most correct and approved taste, may be obtained at the most reasonable prices, at PETER ROBINSON'S. Goods are sent free of charge, for selection, to all parts of England (with draughtman, if desired) upon receipt of letter, order, or telegram; and Patterns are sent, with Book of Illustrations, to all parts of the world.

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**NOTICE.—THE MUCH APPROVED IMPERIAL UNSPOTTING CRAPE** is to be obtained at PETER ROBINSON'S Family Mourning Warehouse, of Regent-street.

**SUPERIOR BLACK SILKS,** at PETER ROBINSON'S. Good useful Black Silks, from 45s. to 70s. the Full Dress. Superior and most enduring qualities, from 2½ gu. to 10 gu.; or by the yard, from 2s. 11d. to 10s. 6d. Patterns free. Peter Robinson, Wholesale and Retail Black Silk Mercant, 255 to 262, Regent-street, London.

**FIRST-CLASS CARPETS. Lowest Prices.** Price-list post-free. Patterns can be forwarded into the country free. T. VENABLES and SONS, London, E.

**FIRST-CLASS SILKS. Lowest Prices.** Write for Patterns, post-free. Shawls, Mantles, Ladies' ready-made and Baby Linen, &c. T. VENABLES and SONS, London, E.

**FIRST-CLASS DRAPERY. Lowest Prices.** Charity Blankets, 6s. by 50 inches. A sample Pair free, on receipt of post-office order, for 4s. 9d. T. VENABLES and SONS, London, E.

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**FIRST-CLASS BED-ROOM FURNITURE.** Price-list post-free. T. VENABLES and SONS, 103, 104, 105, Whitechapel; and 2, 4, 6, 8, Commercial-st., London.

**PATTERNS FREE.** **BLACK SILKS, Best Makes and London** Made. Warranted for Wear. Black Figured Gros Grains, 22 2s. 6d. and 21 10s. 6d. 14 yards. These are a specially useful fabric. JOHN HARVEY and SON, 69, Ludgate-hill.

**PATTERNS FREE.** **SPRING DRESS MATERIALS,** cut by the Yard. Novelty in British and Foreign Manufacture. Useful Fabrics for Young Ladies' Wear, from 1s. to 1s. 9d. per yard. Printed Alpaca, Châné and Fancy Mohairs. JOHN HARVEY and SON, 69, Ludgate-hill.

**SALVAGE STOCK OF DRAPERY GOODS** from the late fire in King-street, Cheap-side, as advertised in "Standard" of Wednesday. Also, a large Parcel of Goods returned from Australia. 150 pieces Plain and Fancy Dress Goods, from 12s. 6d. to 1s. 11d. per yard. 1000 dozen Fancy Boxes, suitable for Bazaars, &c. This day and during the week. T. SIMPSON and CO., 48, 49, 50, and 53, Farringdon-street, City.

**SILKS.—T. SIMPSON and COMPANY,** having lately concluded several large purchases of BRITISH and FOREIGN SILKS, which adding to a large and well-selected stock, are enabled to offer unusual advantages to their Customers and the public. 48, 49, 50, and 53, Farringdon-street, City.

**LADIES and the PUBLIC** are invited to inspect SPENCE'S NEW SPRING STOCK of Silks, Mantles, Shawls, Fancy Dresses, Drapery, Ribbons, Hosiery, Gloves, Trimmings, Haberdashery, &c. Several very Choice Lots of SILKS, FANCY DRESSES, FRENCH CAMBRICS, RIBBONS, &c., purchased under favourable circumstances.—Patterns post-free. James Spence and Co., Wholesale and Retail Silkmercers, Drapers, &c., 78, 77, and 75, St. Paul's-churchyard, London, E.C. Catalogue, with Illustrated Almanac for 1867, sent free. N.B. Visitors are reminded that St. Paul's is within five to ten minutes' walk of the principal railways which have now extended their lines to the City.

**"SINGER,"** NEW NOISELESS LOCK-STITCH FAMILY SEWING-MACHINES. Catalogue post-free. Chief Office in the United Kingdom, 147, Chapside, London.

**W. F. THOMAS and CO'S New Patent SEWING-MACHINES,** producing work alike upon both sides, 2s. 6d.—1 and 2, Chapside; and Regent-street, Oxford-st., W.

**ALEXANDER'S KNITTING-COTTON** is marvellously cheap, and the quality is very superior. All knitters should try it; it is sure to please. Sold by all retail Haberdashers.

**CHEAP SILKS at BAKER and CRISP'S.** Patterns post-free.

**BAKER and CRISP'S, the Cheapest House** in London for Black and Fancy Silks. Patterns free.

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**BAKER and CRISP. A SPECIALTY.—JAPANESE SILKS.** 1000 different Colourings and Patterns, just arrived, under 25 the Dozen. Patterns free.

**BAKER and CRISP. FANCY DRESSES, &c.—Patterns free.** Lot 1. 500 Pieces of Striped Popelines 2s. 11d. Full Dress. Lot 2. 350 Pieces of ditto Plain Popelines 2s. 9d. Lot 3. 350 Pieces of Plain Granite Mohair 8s. 9d. Lot 4. 300 Pieces of ditto ditto 12s. 6d. Lot 5. 300 Pieces of 32-inch Skirtings 1s. 3d. Lot 6. 300 Pieces of 32-inch ditto 1s. 6d. Lot 7. 300 Pieces of 32-inch Wool ditto 1s. 11d. Lot 8. 300 Pieces of the best Striped Sultanias 17s. 6d. Lot 9. 15 Pieces of Silk and Cotton Poplins, 1s. per yard to 3s. Lot 10. 1000 Poplin Dresses, 14s. 9d. to 21s. 6d. Also all the New Colours and Patterns in Japanese Silks, and a large variety of New Fancy Dresses in Mottled Châné, Striped and Plain, from 4½ gu. to 2s. 6d. per yard. 198, Regent-street.

**FANCY DRESSES, at 2s. 11d.,** all the year round. The largest variety in the kingdom, from 2s. 11d. to 5 gu. BAKER and CRISP. Patterns free.

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**CHAS. AMOTT and CO, SAINT PAUL'S,** are NOW SELLING £15,000 worth of RICH BLACK SILKS, 1000 New Styles in New Spring Silks, 1½ guinea to 5 gu. 10 yards, 1½ guinea to 6 gu. 15 yards, £2000 worth of Rich Wedding Silks, 21 15s. 6d. to 4 gu. New Japanese Silks, in 200 novel colourings, 1½ guinea to 6 gu. 15 yards, £15,000 worth of New Spring Dress Fabrics, 8s. 11d. to 1 guinea 14 yards. Price from 6d. per dozen. Sold by all Ironmongers, Upholsterers. 61 and 62, Saint Paul's, London.

**COSTLY and MAGNIFICENT SHAWLS.** CHAS. AMOTT and CO, SAINT PAUL'S, will SELL, during the next few days, 350 superb Woven SCARF SHAWLS, all pure Silk, worth 10 gu. for 4½ gu. each. A sample sent to the country upon receipt of Post-office order. 61 and 62, Saint Paul's, London.

**MOIRES ANTIQUES.** SEWELL and CO. have bought, at a large discount from the cost price, a Bankrupt's Stock of RICH MOIRES ANTIQUES, and will sell them at the following extraordinary prices—viz., 3½, 4, and 4½ gu. the Full Dress; usual price, 5½ to 8½ gu. Compton House, Firth-street and Old Compton-street, Soho-sq., W.

**A GREAT BARGAIN.** Several thousand Yards of Wide-width FRENCH CHINTZES, at 12½d. per yard.—SEWELL and CO., Compton House, 44, 45, 46, Old Compton-street, and 46, 47, Firth-street, Soho-square, W.

**CHEAP SPRING and SUMMER DRESSES.** We would particularly direct the attention of our customers and the public to an immense Lot, just purchased, of extraordinary cheap FANCY DRESSES, in every variety, both Light, Dark, and Medium Colours. They will be cut in any length. The price will be from 4½d. per yard, or 4s. 9d. the Dress to 10s. 9d.; many amongst them being really worth twice the price. Patterns post-free.—HENRY GLAYE, "The Arcade," 534 to 537, New Oxford-street, W.C.

**TENT'S PATENT CURTAIN HOOKS and RINGS** for Hanging Window and Bed Curtains without Sewing. If reversed, may be used for many other purposes. Price from 6d. per dozen. Sold by all Ironmongers, Upholsterers. Wholesale, W. Tent and Co., Patentees, 4, Birch-lane, E.C.

**THOMSON'S "GLOVE-FITTING" CORSETS.** An entirely new principle, with new Spring Fitting. Manufacturers of the "Prize-medal Corset." Trade mark, a "Crown."

**SECURITY AGAINST LOSS and MISTAKE.** Mark your Linen with BOND'S PERMANENT MARKING INK, by far the best and blackest for marking Cords, Hames, and Initials upon household linen, wearing apparel, &c. Price per bottle.—Prepared only by B. BOND, 10, Bishopsgate-street Within, London; and sold by all respectable Chemists, Stationers, &c., in the kingdom.

**SAFE INVESTMENTS FOR CAPITAL.** paying 10 per cent per annum in Dividends on the outlay. SHARP'S INVESTMENT CIRCULAR (post-free) should be consulted by shareholders and the public before investing. It is a safe, valuable, and reliable guide.—Office, 31, Fenchurch, London, E.C.

**HEALTH WITHOUT MEDICINE.** DR. BARRY'S DELICIOUS REVALENTA AERABICA FOOD cures dyspepsia, indigestion, cough, asthma, consumption, debility, constipation, diarrhoea, palpitation, nervous, bilious, liver, and stomach complaints. Cure No. 68, 415—"Home," July 31, 1864. The health of the Holy Father is excellent, especially since, abandoning all other remedies, he has confined himself entirely to Dr. Barry's Food, and his Holiness cannot praise this excellent food too highly.—"Gazette du Midi."—Dr. Barry and Co., No. 77, Regent-street, London, W. In tins, at 1s. 11d.; 1 lb. tin, 2s.; 2 lb. tin, 4s. Sold by all Grocers and Chemists.

**INVALIDS and INFANTS.** NEAVE'S FARINACEOUS FOOD has for many years received the unqualified approval of Drs. Lankaster, Hasall, Letheby, Ure, and other eminent medical men as a highly nutritious and unmedicated diet for Invalids and Children.

Sold in 1s. cisterns by the leading Chemists and Grocers of the kingdom. Wholesale by H. Turner and Co., Grocers and Blackwell, Barclay and Sons, W. Edwards, Sutton and Co., and T. Pollock, London; Thompson and Capper, Liverpool; Turner and Co., Manchester.—Neave and Co., Manufacturers, Fordingbridge.

**MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS, ST. JAMES'S HALL.**—LAST MORNING PERFORMANCE of the SEASON on SATURDAY, MARCH 30, at Three. Programmes, M.M. Charles Hallé, Joachim, L. Rie, Henry Blagrove, and Piatelli. Conductor, Mr. Benedict. Sofa Stalls, 5s.; Balcony, 3s.; Admission, 1s. Programmes and Tickets at Chappell and Co.'s, 50, New Bond-street.

**JAPANESE.—FLORAL HALL, Covent-garden.**—The JAPANESE TROUPE, EVERY EVENING, including Saturday, at Eight, and on Wednesday and Saturday Morning, at Three. Stalls, 5s.; Reserved Seats, 2s. 6d.; Admission, 1s. Tickets to be obtained at the Box-office from Ten till Five; also at Mitchell's, Old Bond-street; Austin's, St. James's Hall; and Keith, Frowse, and Co.'s, Chapside. N.B. Skating on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, from 3 till 5, and every Evening after the Japanese performances.

**PENNY READINGS LIFE-BOAT.** At a Penny Reading, very numerous attended, and countenanced by the presence of the Clergy and other influential Resident Gentry of the town of BUNGAY, held on FEB. 25—Charles Childs, Esq., in the chair—a suggestion was made by E. R. Adams, Esq., Surgeon, and most warmly received, that an organized effort should be made in all the towns throughout the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk to hold interesting, simultaneously if practicable, for READINGS and MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENTS, the profits of which should go to purchase a new life-boat, to be called the Penny Readings Life-boat, and to be stationed on some dangerous point of the Eastern Coast, under the advice, concurrence, and sanction of the ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION. E. R. ADAMS, Esq., Bungay, kindly undertook to act as Honorary Secretary, and will give all needful information.

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